

FAIRY TAIL

52



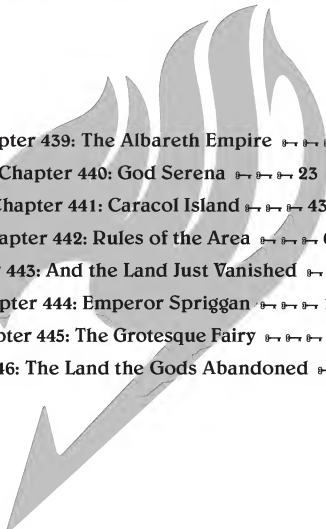
Hiro Mashima

FAIRYTAIL

52



HIRO MASHIMA

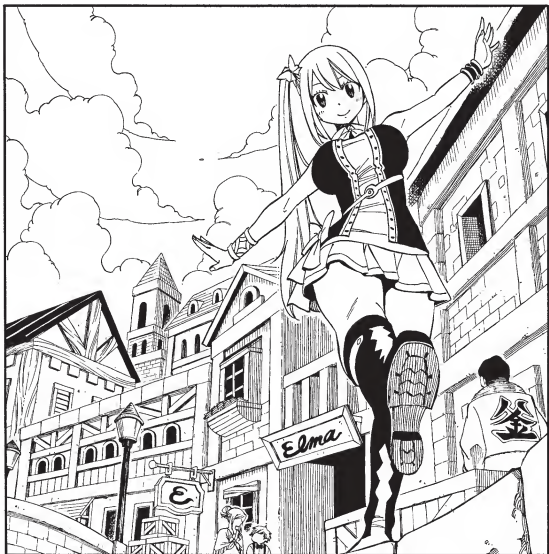
A large, stylized flame graphic in the background of the table of contents. It has a jagged, flame-like shape with a long, pointed tail at the bottom left.

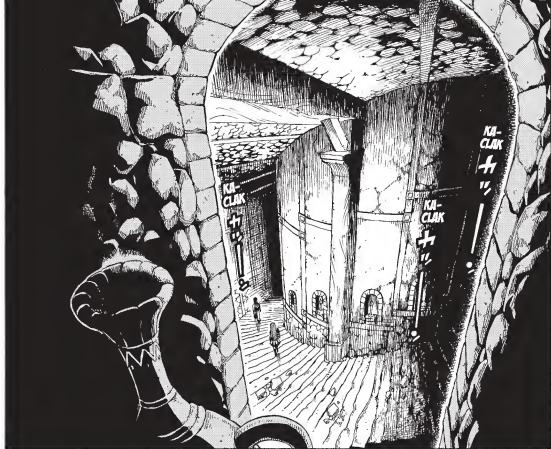
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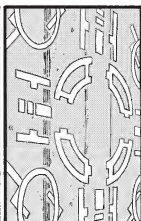
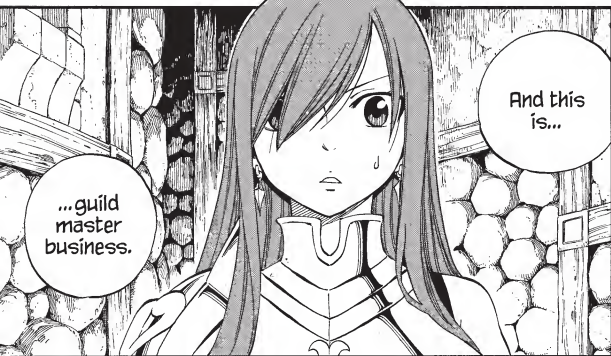
FAIRY TAIL

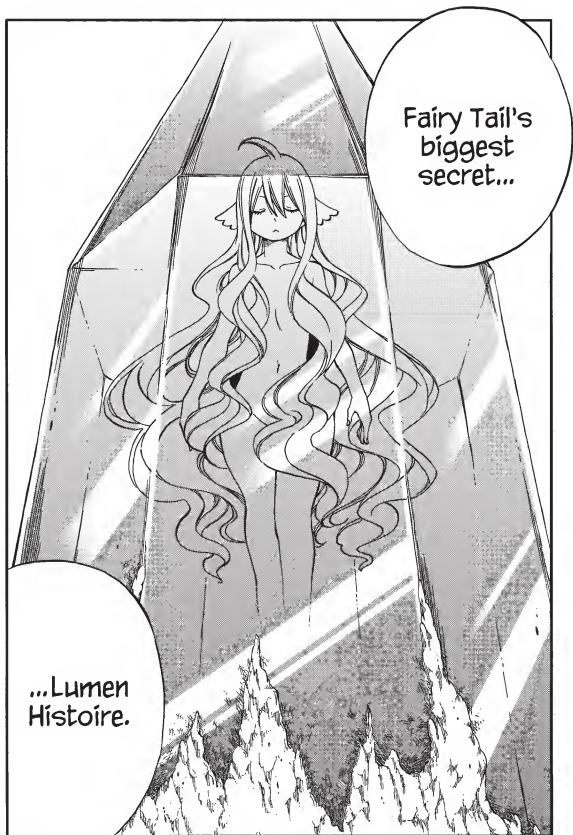
フェアリーテイル

Chapter 439: The Albareth Empire



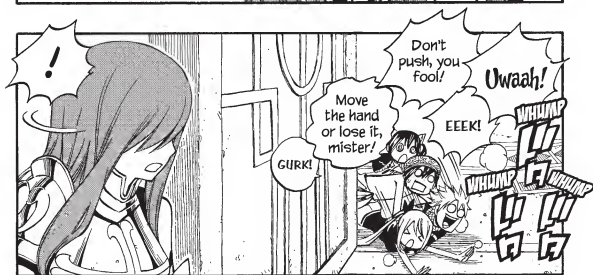
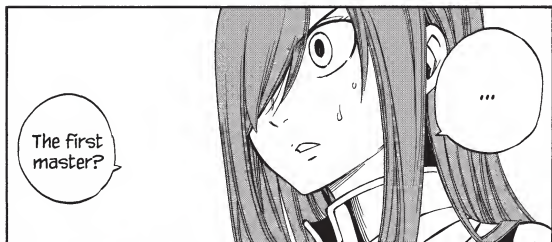


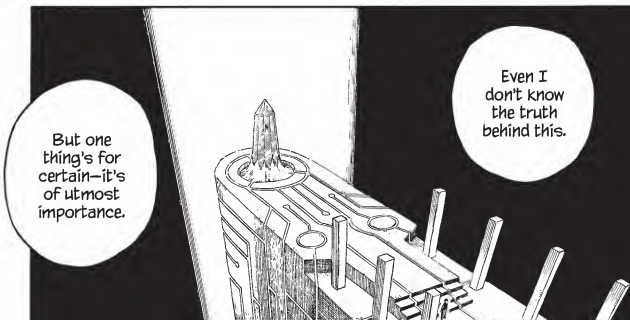
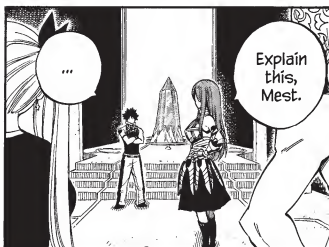


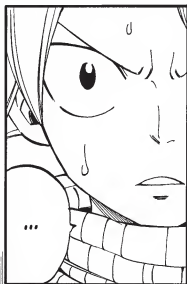
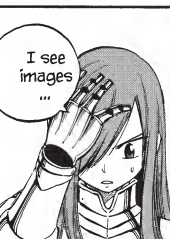


Fairy Tail's
biggest
secret...

...Lumen
Histoire.









That's right.
You're the
only one who
can.



Infiltrate the
Council?



I need you
to feed me
any and all
information on
the Western
Continent.



It isn't
that kind of
mission.

So, what am
I supposed
to steal for
you?



What
for?



I just want
you to tell me *all*
that is said and
done concerning
the Western
Continent.



I'm not asking
you to steal
documents or
erase the black
marks on the
guild brats'
records.



You want
me to steal
information?
Same
difference.



This is
for the
family!

I want you
to do it with
no questions
asked.



I don't
think that's
a good
idea.

If I'm gonna do
it, I'm gonna do it
right! I should wipe
my own memory,
too.



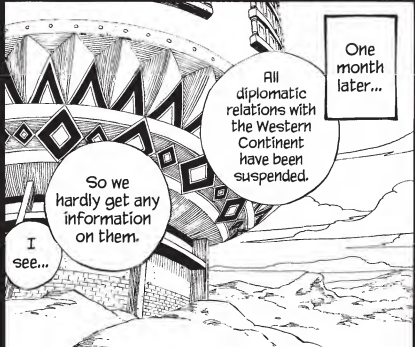
...



But the
Council is
really hot-
under-the-
collar about
our guild!

Reign
Natsu
in a
bit!

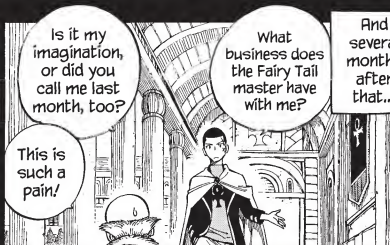
I
see...



So we
hardly get any
information
on them.

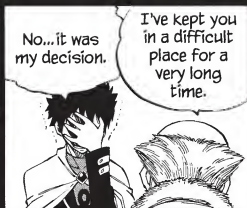
All
diplomatic
relations with
the Western
Continent
have been
suspended.

One
month
later...





I'm relieving
you of your
duty. Come on
back to Fairy
Tail.



No...it was
my decision.

I've kept you
in a difficult
place for a
very long
time.



...some
of the
information
you wanted.

7!! SNIFF
7!! SNIFF

No... I'm
so close to
getting...



Fairy Tail
will be
disbanded.

Then,
one year
ago, right
after the
battle with
Tartaros...





You decided to disband the guild because of an investigation into the Western Continent? I don't get it!

You don't need to.

This is the only way to protect our family.

From the information you brought me, and what I've learned in my own investigations, I know there's no other choice.



Huh?



That country is just too dangerous!

It's because of the Albareth Empire on the Western Continent...

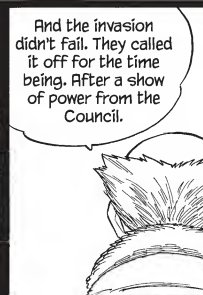
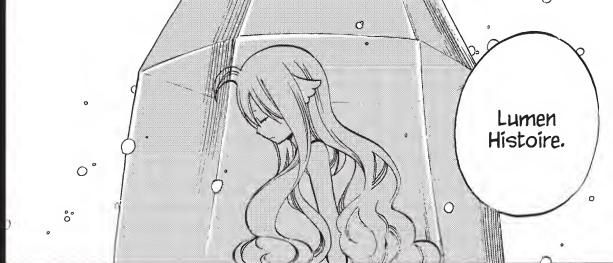


Do you know why they tried to invade?

I know that it tried to invade this continent ten years ago, but it failed!



What is *that* supposed to mean?!





That Ishgal has no way to stop Albareth anymore.

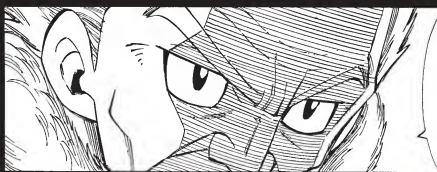
Do you see what this means?

Right.



And neither Face nor Etherion exists anymore.

But the Council has been wiped out.



They will attempt another invasion.



We can't. So all that's left is to disband.

Wha—
...?!



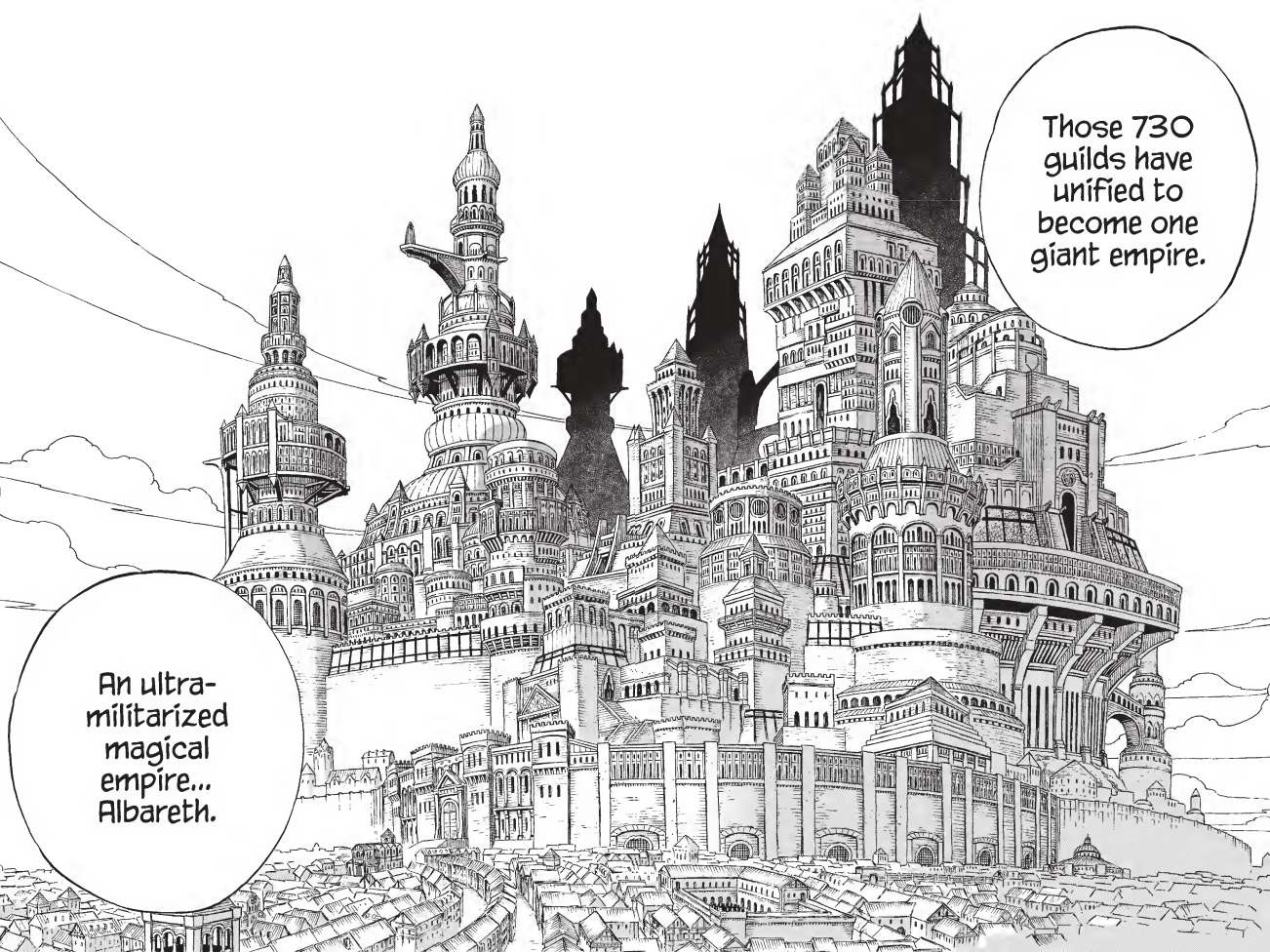
If they attack, we fight back! That's what Fairy Tail is all about, right?

But why disband the guild?!



On the Western Continent, there are some 730 guilds, counting both official and dark guilds.

There are about 500 guilds in Ishgal, including Fairy Tail.



Those 730
guilds have
unified to
become one
giant empire.

An ultra-
militarized
magical
empire...
Albareth.



Then
what do we
do...?!



You're
kidding
...



This is orders
of magnitude
above any
enemy we've
faced.

One guild against
730. You can't even
call that a fight.
We'd be as helpless
as babies.



I'm
going to
Albareth to
negotiate.

!!



*That
should
buy us
some
time.*

I'm
going to play
our trump card.
I'll threaten to set
off Lumen Histoire
if they invade this
continent.

If anything were to
happen to me, and the
guild were still around,
then the kids would be
targeted.

Wait
just one
minute...

If the
Council
can reform
during that
time...

This is
just one
gamble.

KLENN

We have
to disband to
save the family!
That means more
than outward
appearances or
guild history!!!!

**That
must
never
happen
!!!!**

A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of Naruto's face. He has a distressed expression with wide, watery eyes and tears streaming down his cheeks. His mouth is slightly open in a pained or pleading expression.

You're
marching
towards your
own death...

Master...you're
taking on too
much! How can
one man stop
an empire...?

A large, detailed black and white manga panel focusing on Jiraiya's face. He has a stern, almost angry expression with deep-set eyes and a prominent mustache. His hair is spiky and wild. The panel is dominated by his face, with speech bubbles on either side.

**I'm taking
responsibility
for my family's
life!!!!**

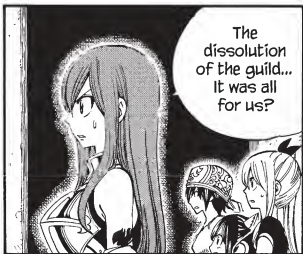
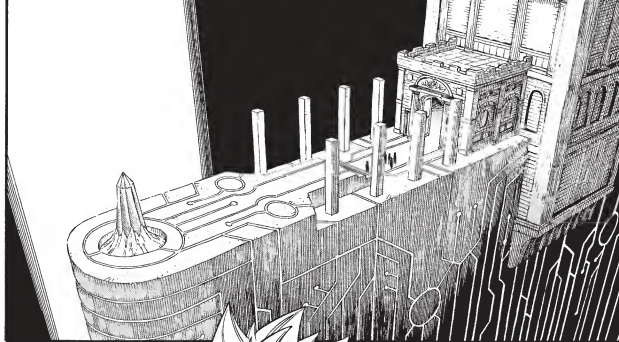
**That's
what a
father does,
right?!**

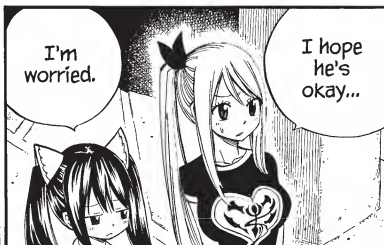
FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 440: God Serena



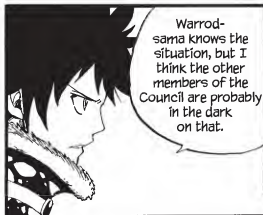




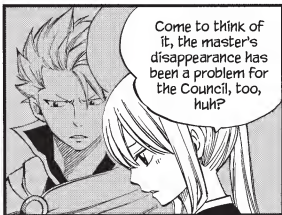


I got help from Warrod-sama, and we centered the new Council around the Ten Wizard Saints.

I made sure the Council was revived, just as Master Makarov asked.



Warrod-sama knows the situation, but I think the other members of the Council are probably in the dark on that.



Come to think of it, the master's disappearance has been a problem for the Council, too, huh?



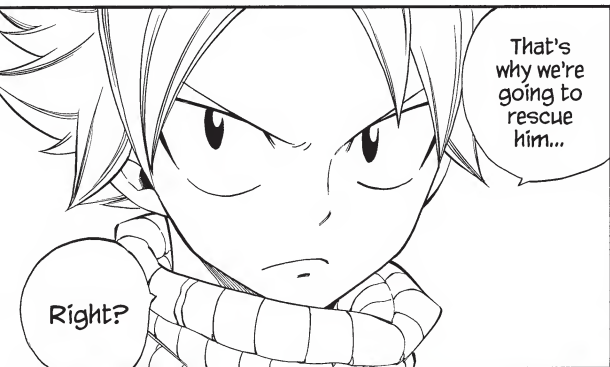
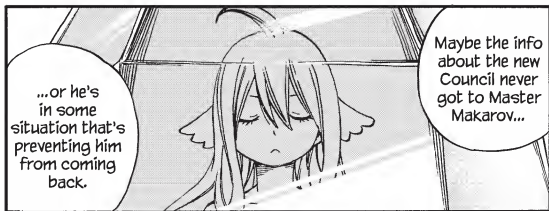
If the old man's idea of buying time did just that, then he should be trying to get home, right?

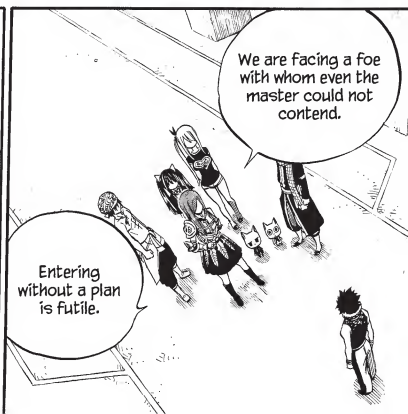
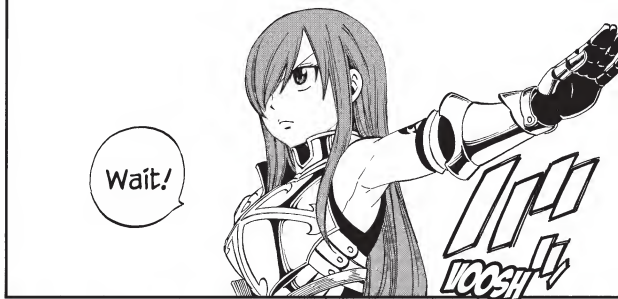
If everything went as planned.



They do all recognize the threat that the Albareth Empire poses, though.

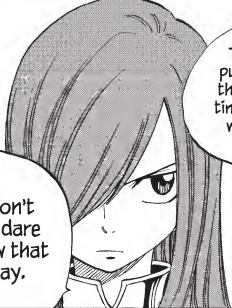
They're already setting up a defensive line to deter any new invasions.



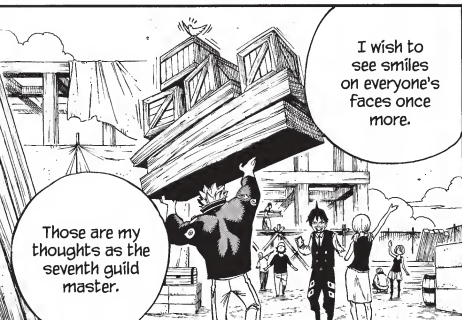




...Don't
you dare
throw that
away.



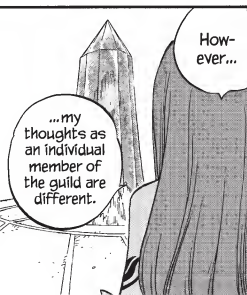
The master
put his life on
the line to buy
time. That time
was his gift
to us...



Those are my
thoughts as the
seventh guild master.

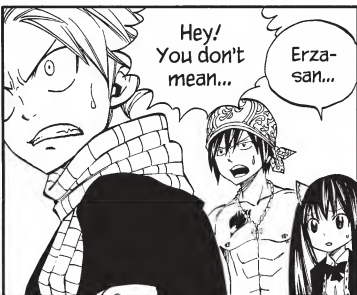
I wish to
see smiles
on everyone's
faces once
more.

We will rebuild the
guild hall, begin
taking jobs
again, and fully
revive Fairy Tail.



How-
ever...

...my
thoughts as
an individual
member of
the guild are
different.



Hey!
You don't
mean...

Erza-
san...



**We must
rescue the
master!!!!**

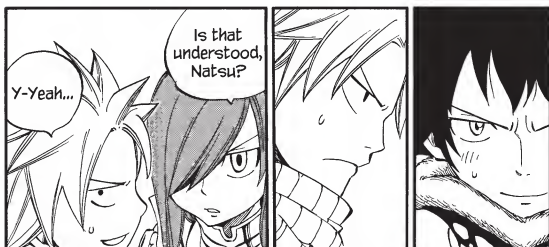
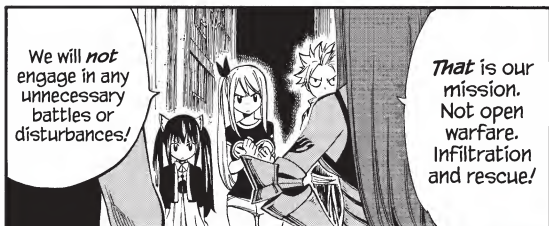
**Therefore,
we will take
action—just
those of us
gathered
here.**



And
escape
safely.

We must
infiltrate
the Albareth
Empire, and
rescue the
master...

The
smaller our
numbers,
the better.



Keep the numbers low for stealth? Makes sense.

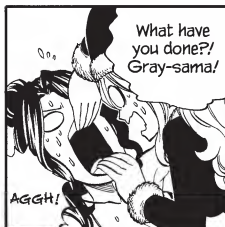


If that's the way, then we better take a different route.



Humph! Tryin' to slip out, huh?

What is it, Gajeel?

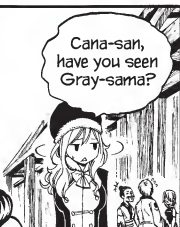


What have you done?! Gray-sama!

AGGH!



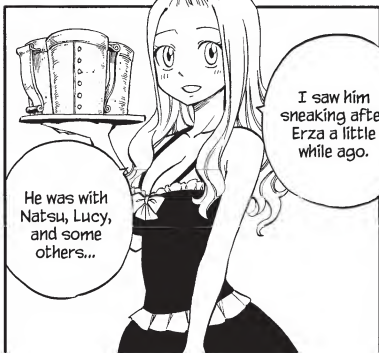
I swallowed him up with my liquor!
HYAH HYAH HYAH!



Cana-san, have you seen Gray-sama?

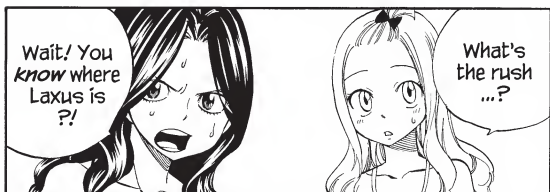


Not... Lucy... again...!



I saw him sneaking after Erza a little while ago.

He was with Natsu, Lucy, and some others...





The Council.



Hm! All the paperwork appears to be in order!

It was wise of you to select Erza as master. My compliments.



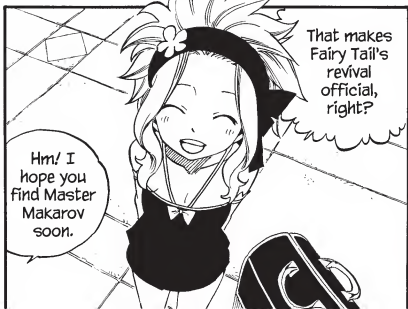
FIFTH-RANKED
MEMBER OF THE
TEN WIZARD
SAINTS

JURA NEEKIS



However, Levy-dono, you are such an efficient worker. The Council will feel the loss.

Heh heh! Sorry!



That makes Fairy Tail's revival official, right?

Hm! I hope you find Master Makarov soon.

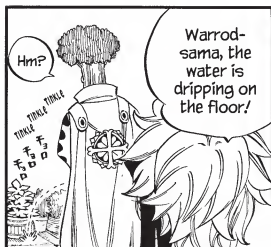
When I first heard it was disbanded, I thought it was a joke.

I assume you are pleased to hear this news as well, Warrod-sama?



FOURTH-RANKED
MEMBER OF THE TEN
WIZARD SAINTS

WARROD SEQUEN



Hm?

Warrod-sama, the water is dripping on the floor!



Now, if only Mest-kun can rescue Makarov as planned...

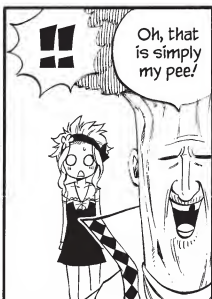


Hey, Warrod, ya old fart!



...

...But that's just a joke!



Oh, that is simply my pee!

Dammit!

When ya gonna
stop playin' the
doddering old
fool?!



Don't
gimme
that!

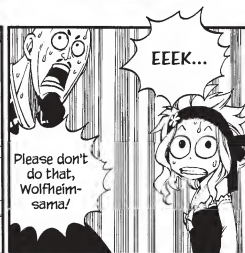
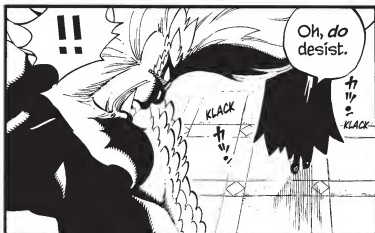
That's a
joke, of
course...

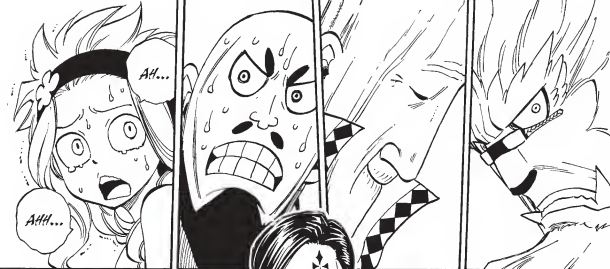
Ah, Wolfheim-
kun! I see you
have as weird a
name as ever.
HA HA HA!

Wow! One
of the Four
Emperors
of Ishgal!

Wolfheim-
sama!
I didn't
realize you
were here
as well!

STOMP STOMP STOMP

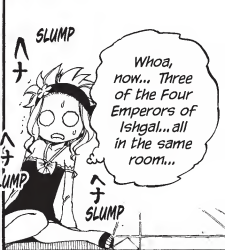






...it is our responsibility to lessen them, is it not?

Yes, tensions are elevated. However...



Whoa, now... Three of the Four Emperors of Ishgal... all in the same room...



Thus, we must tread the diplomatic path with peace accords! It is up to us.

If it descends into armed conflict, we have no hope of prevailing...



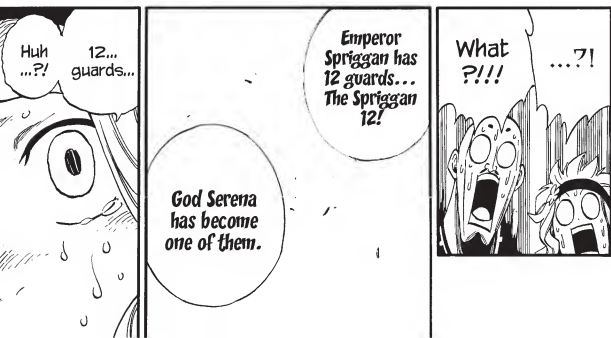
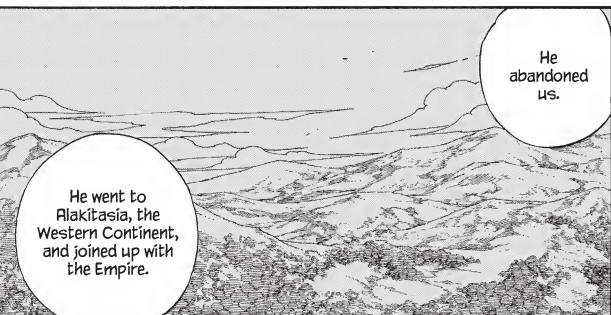
Don't we still have God Serena on our side...?

Is Albareth really that strong?



God Serena...

Ah, he who was once a fellow member of the Four Emperors of Ishgal...he was designated the top-ranked Wizard Saint, a title saved for the greatest wizard on the continent...



RUMBLE

Yes...
The greatest
wizard in Ishgal,
and he's now
with...

... eleven
others
of equal
stature!!!!

That is the
might of
the Albareth
Empire!

RUMBLE

TOP-RANKED
OF THE TEN
WIZARD SAINTS,
MEMBER OF THE
SPRIGGAN 12

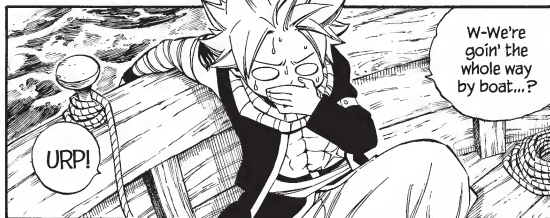
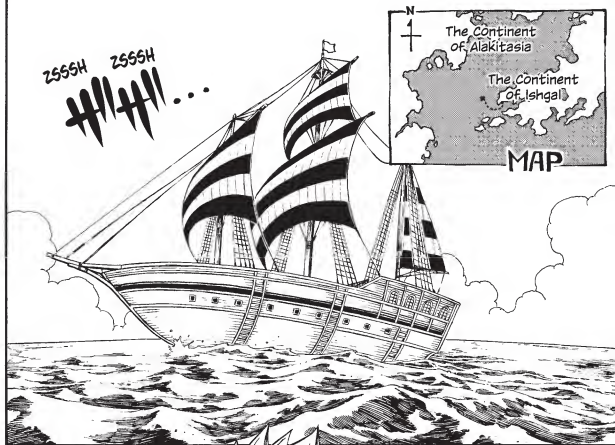
GOD SERENA

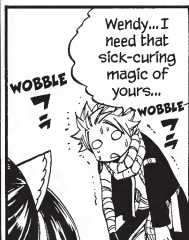
FAIRY TAIL

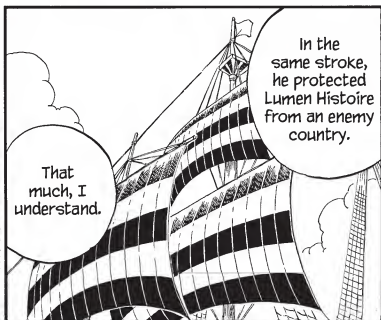
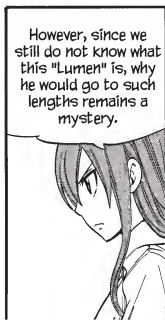
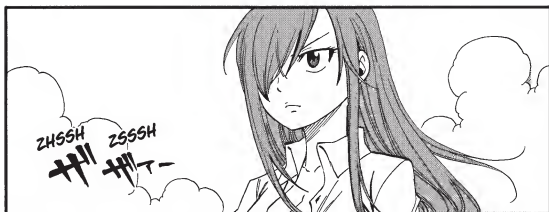
フェアリーテイル

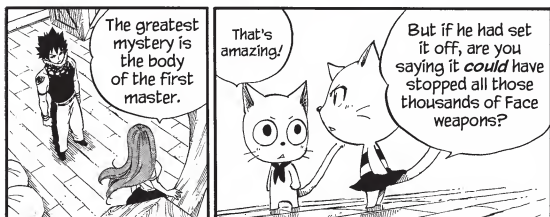
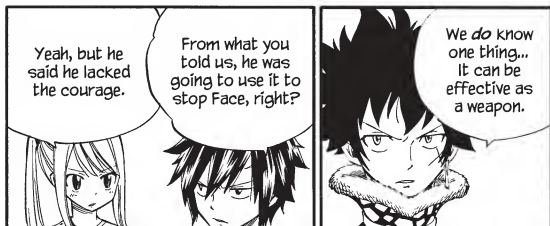
Chapter 441: Caracol Island











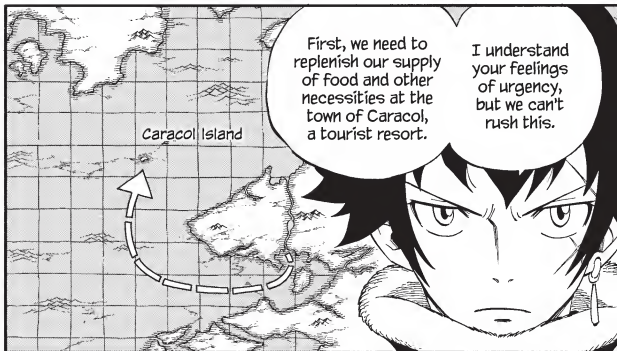


Master...



It's a ten-day journey by ship to Alakitasia, and several more to reach the capital from there.

How long before we make landfall at Albareth?



Caracol Island

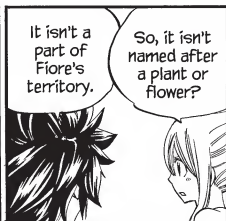
First, we need to replenish our supply of food and other necessities at the town of Caracol, a tourist resort.

I understand your feelings of urgency, but we can't rush this.



Have we the luxury of side trips?

Like I said, we can't be hasty. Proper preparation is crucial for any infiltration mission.



It isn't a part of Fiore's territory.

So, it isn't named after a plant or flower?

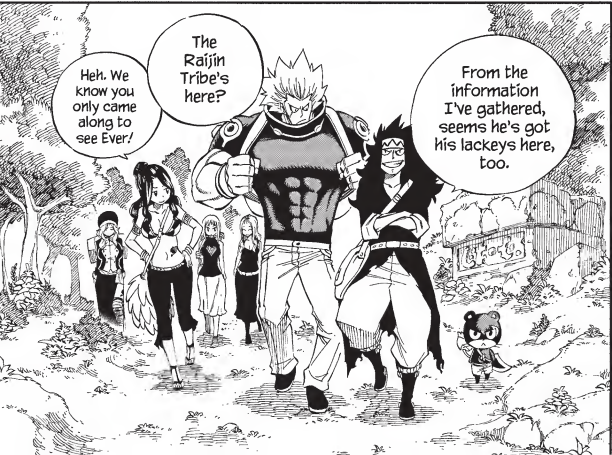


That's how
we'll get the
info we need
to infiltrate
Albareth.

We're set
to meet
someone in
the intelligence
service on
Caracol.



Are you sure
Lexus is here?
This place
ain't exactly
his style.



Heh. We
know you
only came
along to
see Ever!

The
Raijin
Tribe's
here?

From the
information
I've gathered,
seems he's got
his lackeys here,
too.



But I wonder...

...if it was really necessary for us to split up?



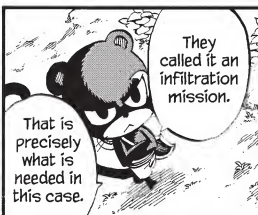
What else can we do? Gray's group already went on ahead of us.

Why must Juvia be on *this* team?



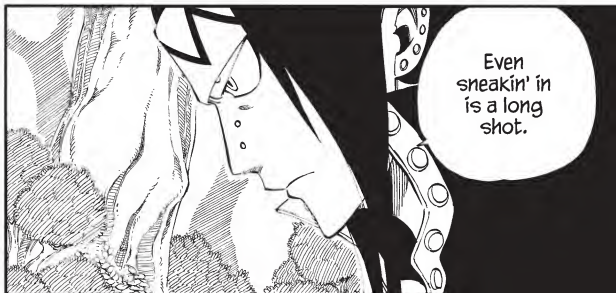
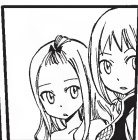
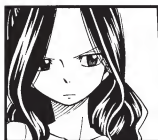
We'd have a zero percent chance of winning.

We're not facing a foe we can beat this time.



They called it an infiltration mission.

That is precisely what is needed in this case.

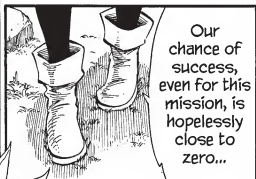


Even sneakin' in is a long shot.



Right?

...That's why we're taking different routes—to improve the odds even the tiniest bit.



Our chance of success, even for this mission, is hopelessly close to zero...

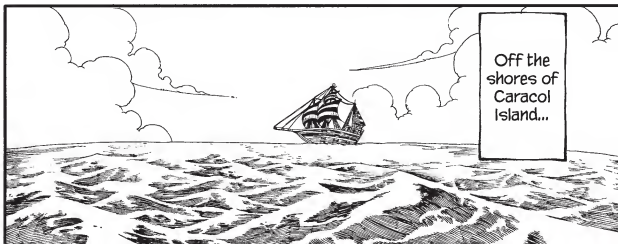
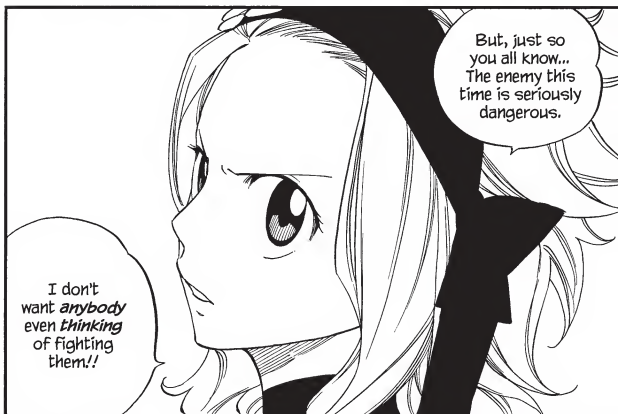
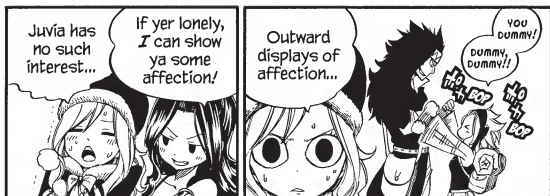


Honestly!

Leaving me behind like that was just plain rude!

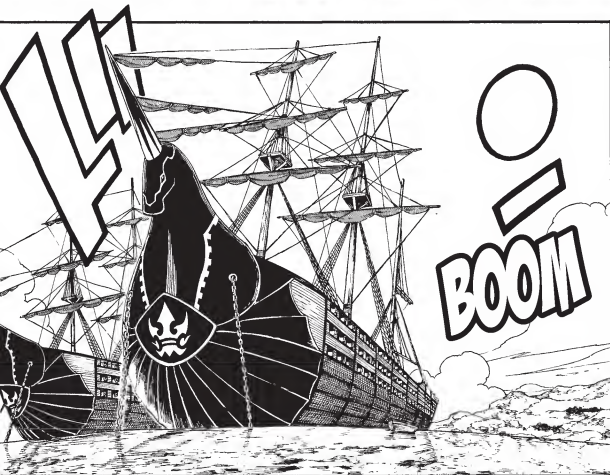
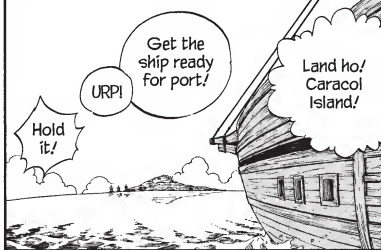


Huh? Oh. Yer so tiny, I thought I already packed you in my bag.



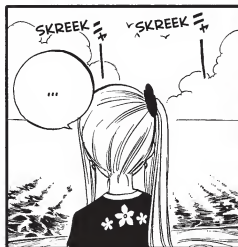
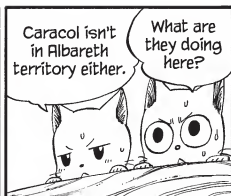


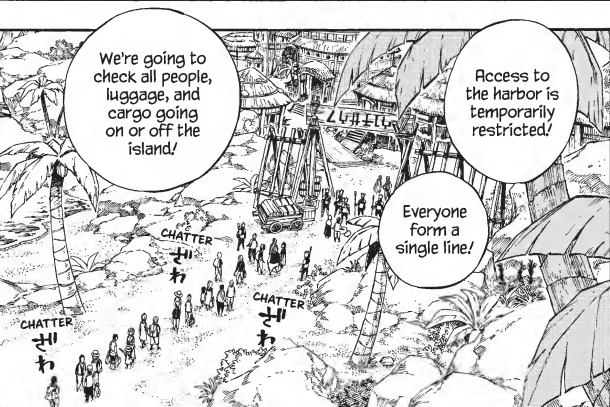
Those ships!
What are they?



The
Albareth
military
is here?!









I heard the star mango here is just exquisite!

We're here to see the sights!

It's gonna be so much fun, right, Sis?

Aye!



We're in the Cait Shelter wizard's guild!

Are those guild marks?

Is that setup even necessary?

"Sis" ...?



Not surprising. Most Ishgal guilds aren't worth knowing.

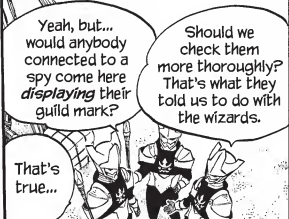
Never heard of *that* guild!

This brings back memories!

Heh heh! These false marks are perfect!



Say,
guys...



Yeah, but...
would anybody
connected to a
spy come here
displaying their
guild mark?

Should we
check them
more thoroughly?
That's what they
told us to do with
the wizards.

That's
true...



They're
going to run
out of star
mangoes!

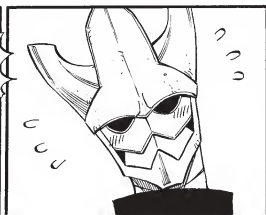
...Would you
please let
us through?

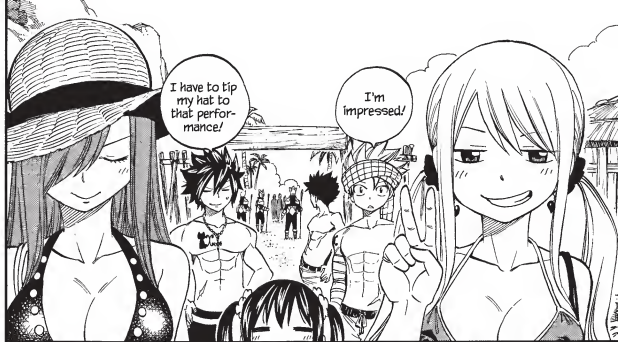
SQUEEZE
4#1



They're
cleared to
pass!

R-Right!
Just show
your bags for
inspection!!





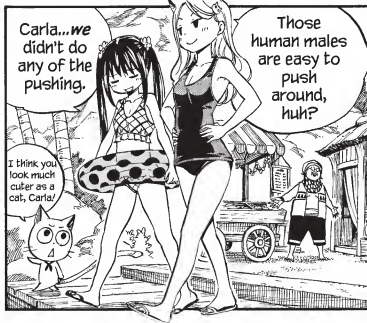
I have to tip
my hat to
that performance!

I'm
impressed!



We
mustn't
relax our
guard.

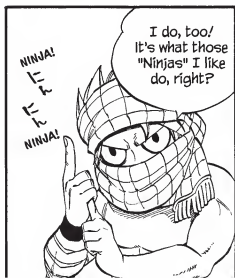
Anyway,
keep your
eyes open. This
whole place is
crawling with
soldiers!



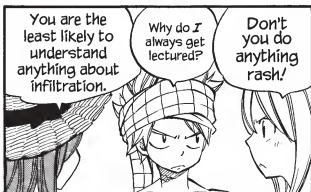
Carla...*we*
didn't do
any of the
pushing.

Those
human males
are easy to
push
around,
huh?

I think you
look much
cuter as a
cat, Carla!



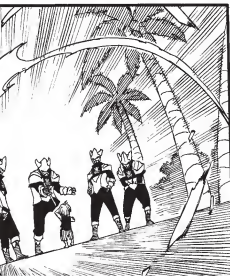
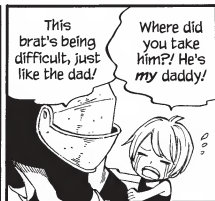
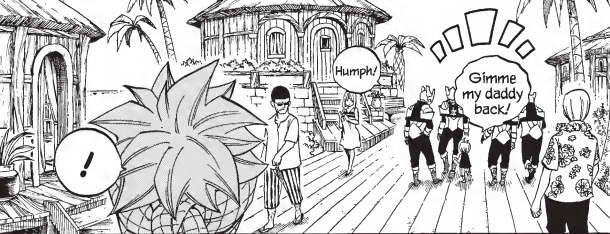
I do, too!
It's what those
"Ninjas" I like
do, right?



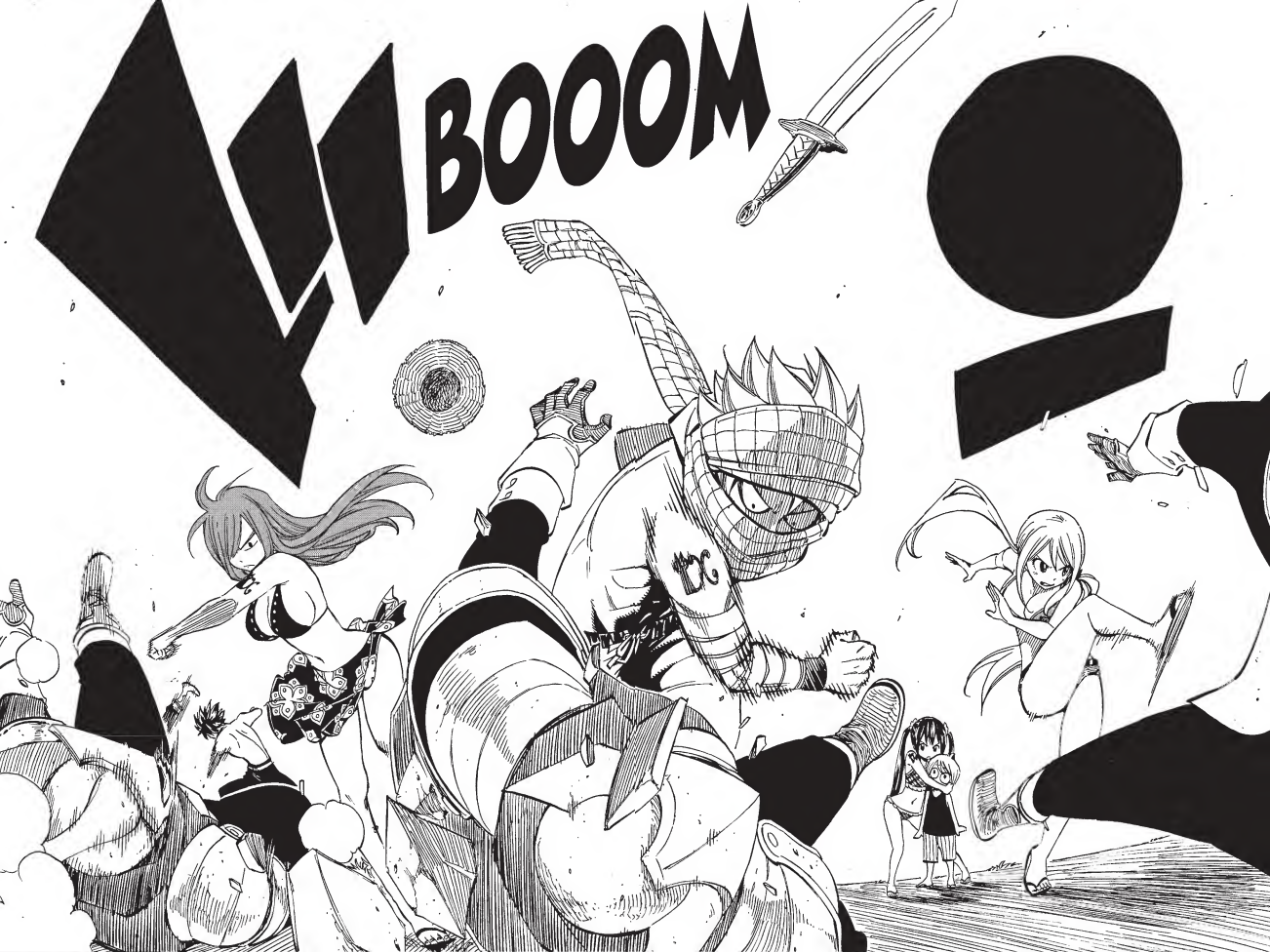
You are the
least likely to
understand
anything about
infiltration.

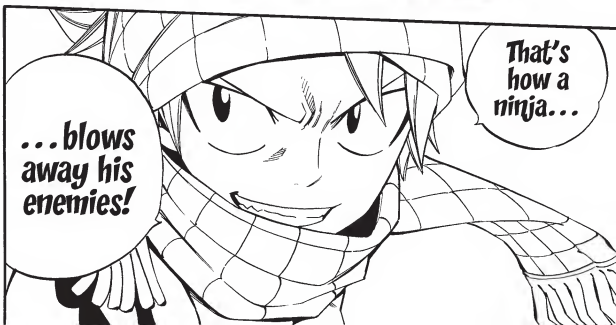
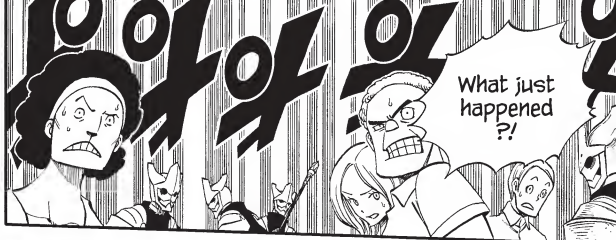
Why do I
always get
lectured?

Don't
you do
anything
rash!



BOOOM



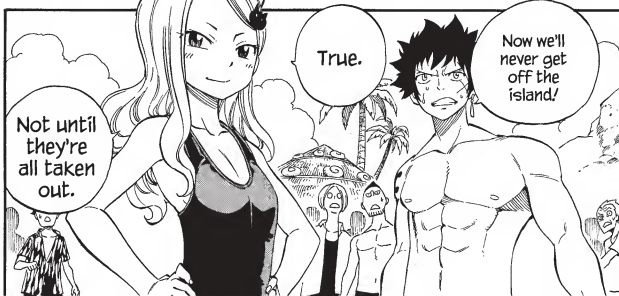
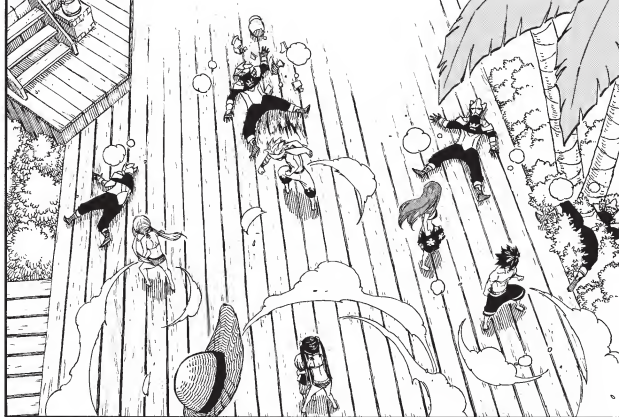


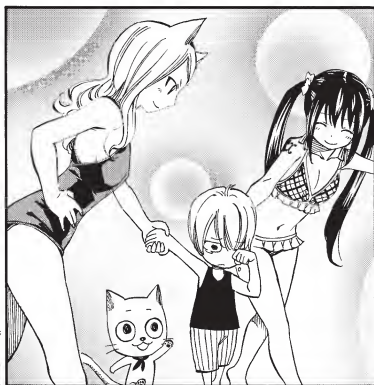
FAIRY TAIL

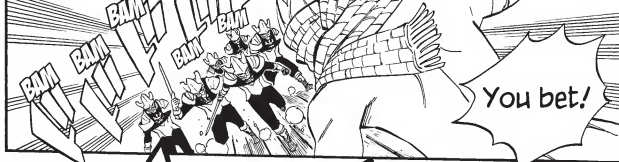
フェアリーテイル

Chapter 442: Rules of the Area









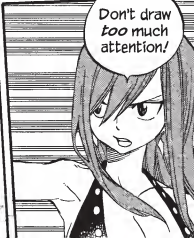
You bet!



Let's do this!



The island's hot! Shall we cool it down?

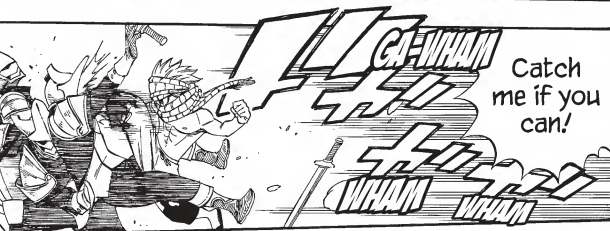


Don't draw too much attention!

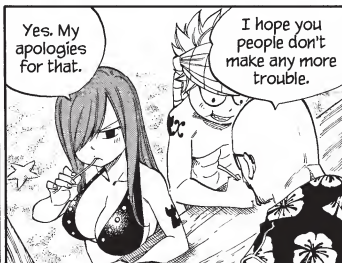
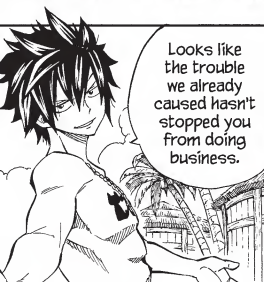
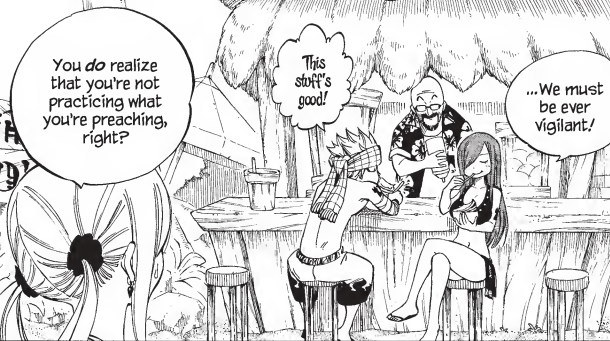
Capture
them!

와와와와

Seal off
the whole
harbor!





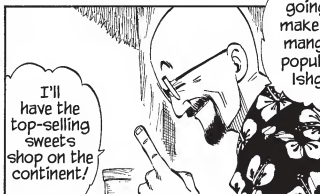




A good dream!

ahem!

Yes! That's a sweet—



I'll have the top-selling sweets shop on the continent!

I'm going to make star mangoes popular in Ishgal!

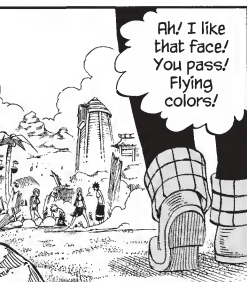


...but I'm working toward my dream.

I know this shack looks old and run-down...



So a minor brawl like this...



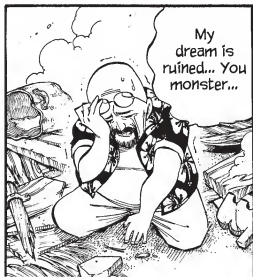


Allow me to introduce myself—
Marin Hollow.

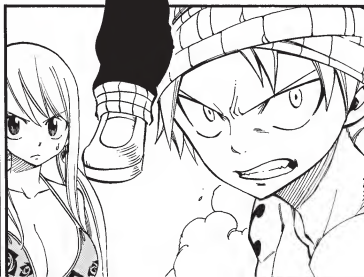
I'm a member
of the Albareth
Imperial Army,
Brandish
Division.

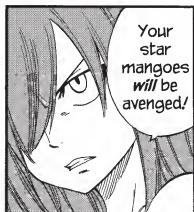
ALBARETH
IMPERIAL ARMY
BRANDISH DIVISION

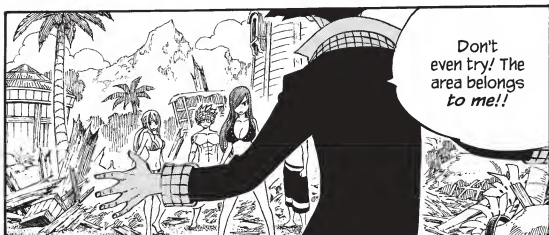
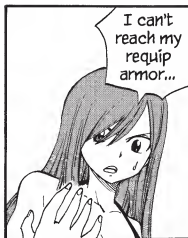
MARIN HOLLOW

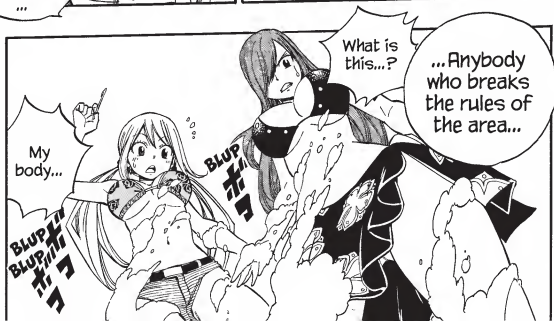
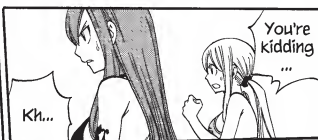
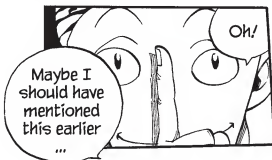
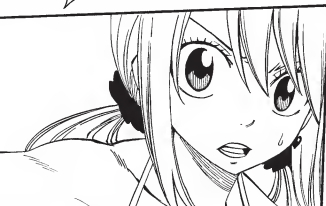


My
dream is
ruined... You
monster...









Lucy!!!!

Erza!!!!

BLUP
BLUP
BLUP

BLUP
BLUP
BLUP

BLUP
BLUP
BLUP

...gets invited
to kick back
and relax in my
own personal
space.

AAAA
!!

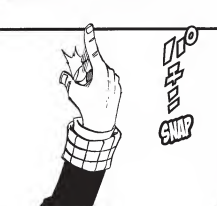
WHA-?!

Eyaaah!

SWISH

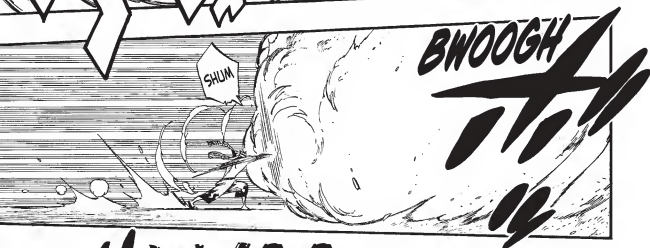
AAA!!



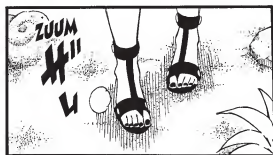




**And he fails!
Dirty creep!!**









Oh, a thousand pardons, Brandish-sama! And I must say, you always get the highest grades!!

Could you stop that? It gives me the creeps.

ALBARETH
IMPERIAL ARMY
SPRIGGAN 12

BRANDISH MI H

...this overwhelming aura of magical power...!!!

What is this...

FAIRY TAIL

Chapter 443:
And the Land Just Vanished





Juvia is too embarrassed...

Juvia, why don't you join us?

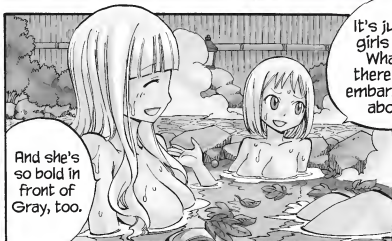
SIGH...
Hot springs are just the thing for a body worn-out from traveling.

STEAM
STEAM
STEAM

*Curtain: Women's

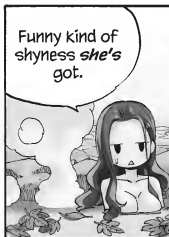


Look, it's Gray!

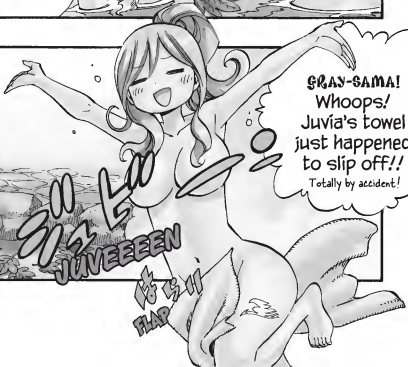


And she's so bold in front of Gray, too.

It's just us girls here! What is there to be embarrassed about?

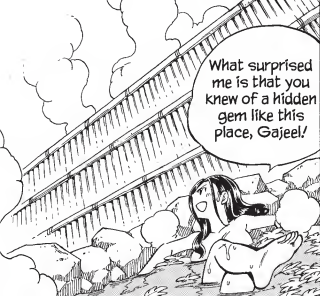


Funny kind of shyness *she's* got.

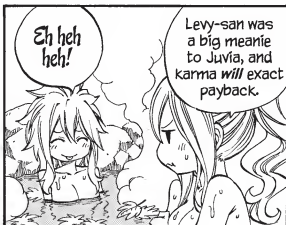


GRAY-SAMA!
Whoops! Juvia's towel just happened to slip off!!
Totally by accident!

JUVEEEEN
FLAP



What surprised me is that you knew of a hidden gem like this place, Gajeel!



Eh heh heh!

Levy-san was a big meanie to Juvia, and karma *will* exact payback.



Worst. View. Ever.

Meeen!

GEE HEE!
Don't compare me to Salamander!

He may not look it, but Gajeel is a hot spring enthusiast.



Were you unaware that this hot spring is owned by Blue Pegasus? It's called the Pegasus Foaling Grounds!*

And what's Ichiya doing here anyway?!



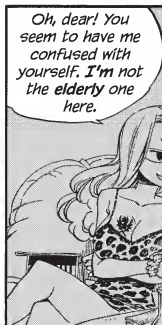
Yes. She has as fine a perfume as ever.



I hope Jenny's doing okay!

Exactly!

You mean the guild hall is somewhere nearby?

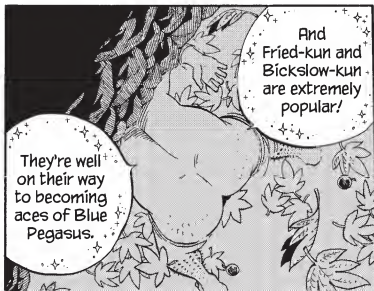


Oh, dear! You seem to have me confused with yourself. I'm not the elderly one here.

Can't you keep up? ... Or are you going senile?



She and Evergreen-kun make for quite the pair.

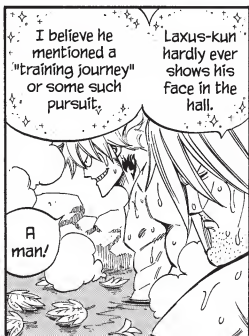
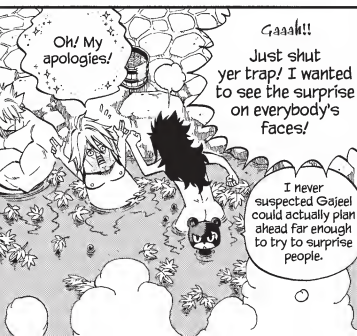
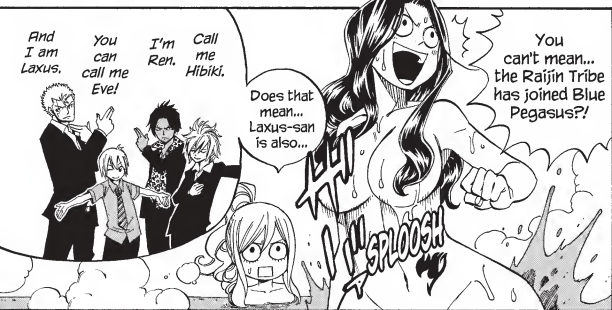
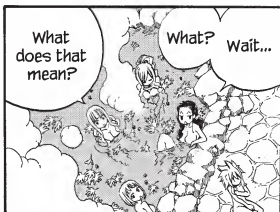
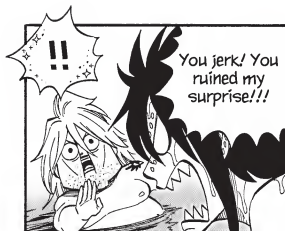


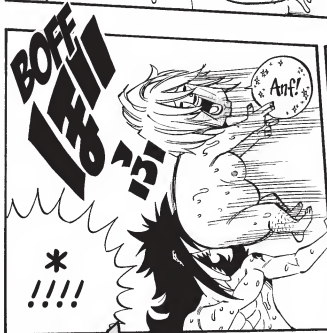
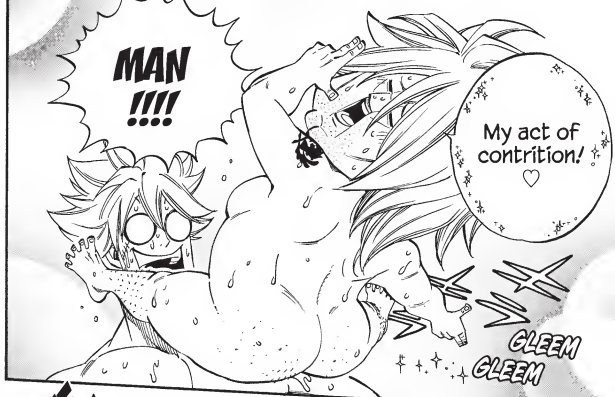
They're well on their way to becoming aces of Blue Pegasus.

And Fried-kun and Bickslow-kun are extremely popular!

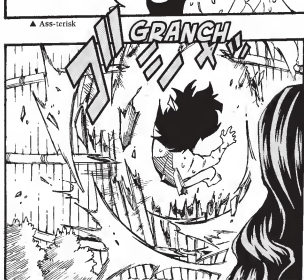


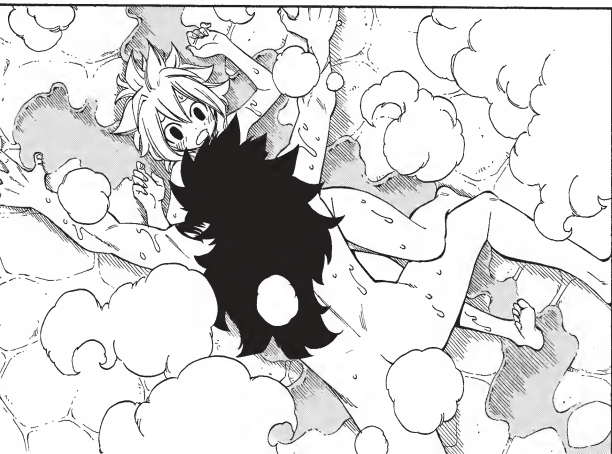
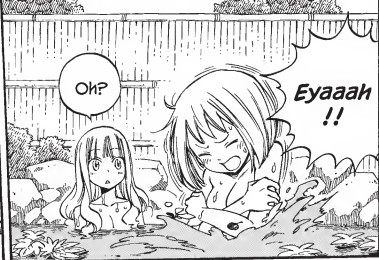
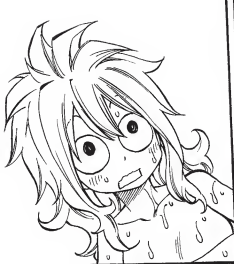
Huh?

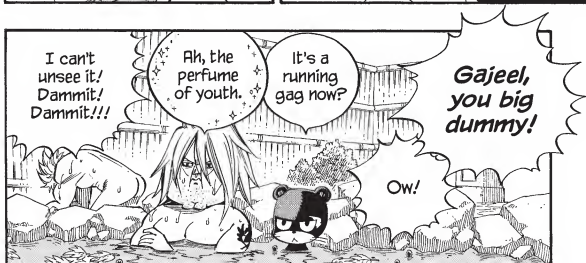
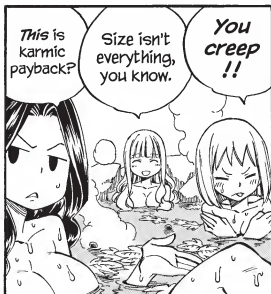


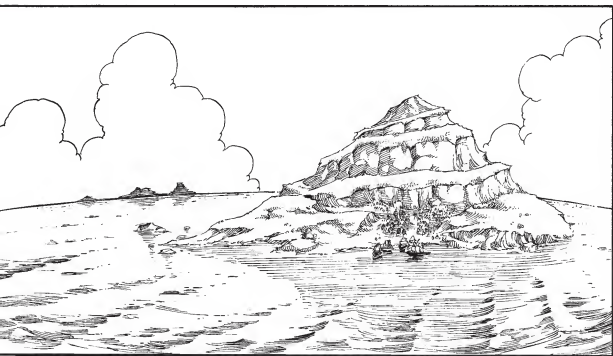
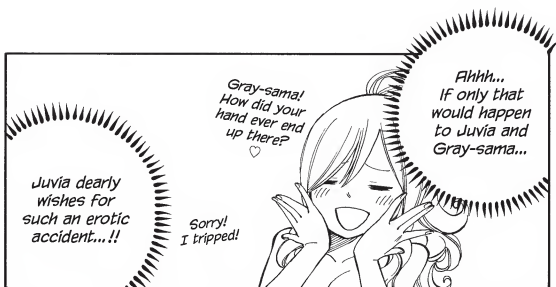


▲ Ass-terisk

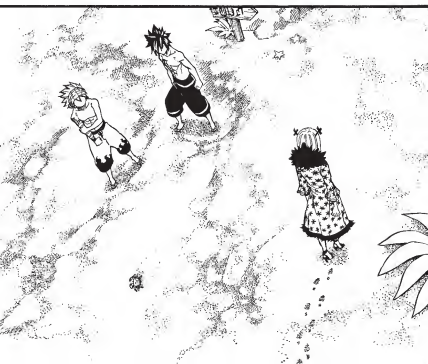
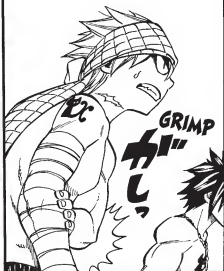












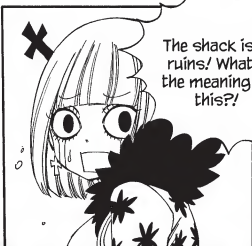


The one who blew it up was *you!*

You dirty liar!



They're the reason it all went... kaboom!



The shack is in ruins! What's the meaning of this?!



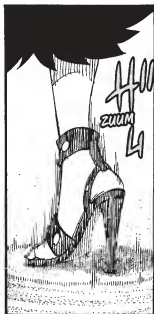
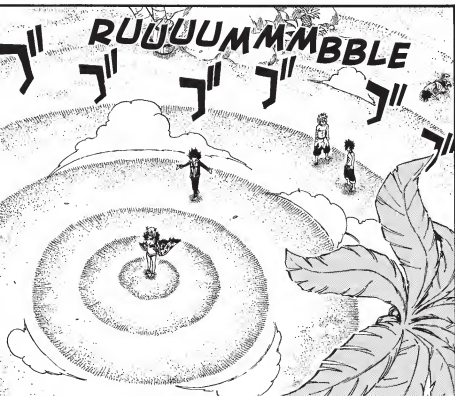
Wait—Brandish-sama!!! These folks picked a fight with our soldiers...

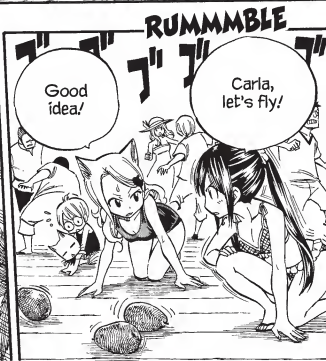
I'm going back!

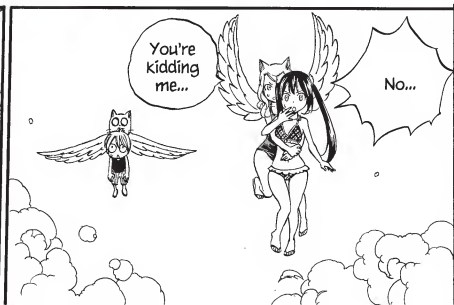
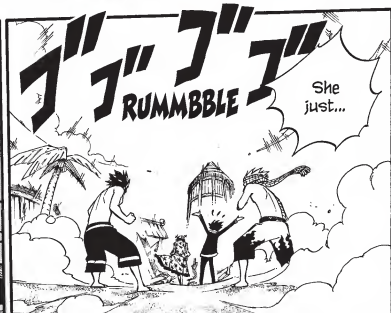
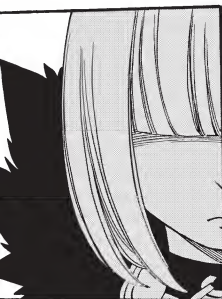
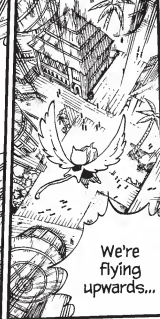


Sigh...

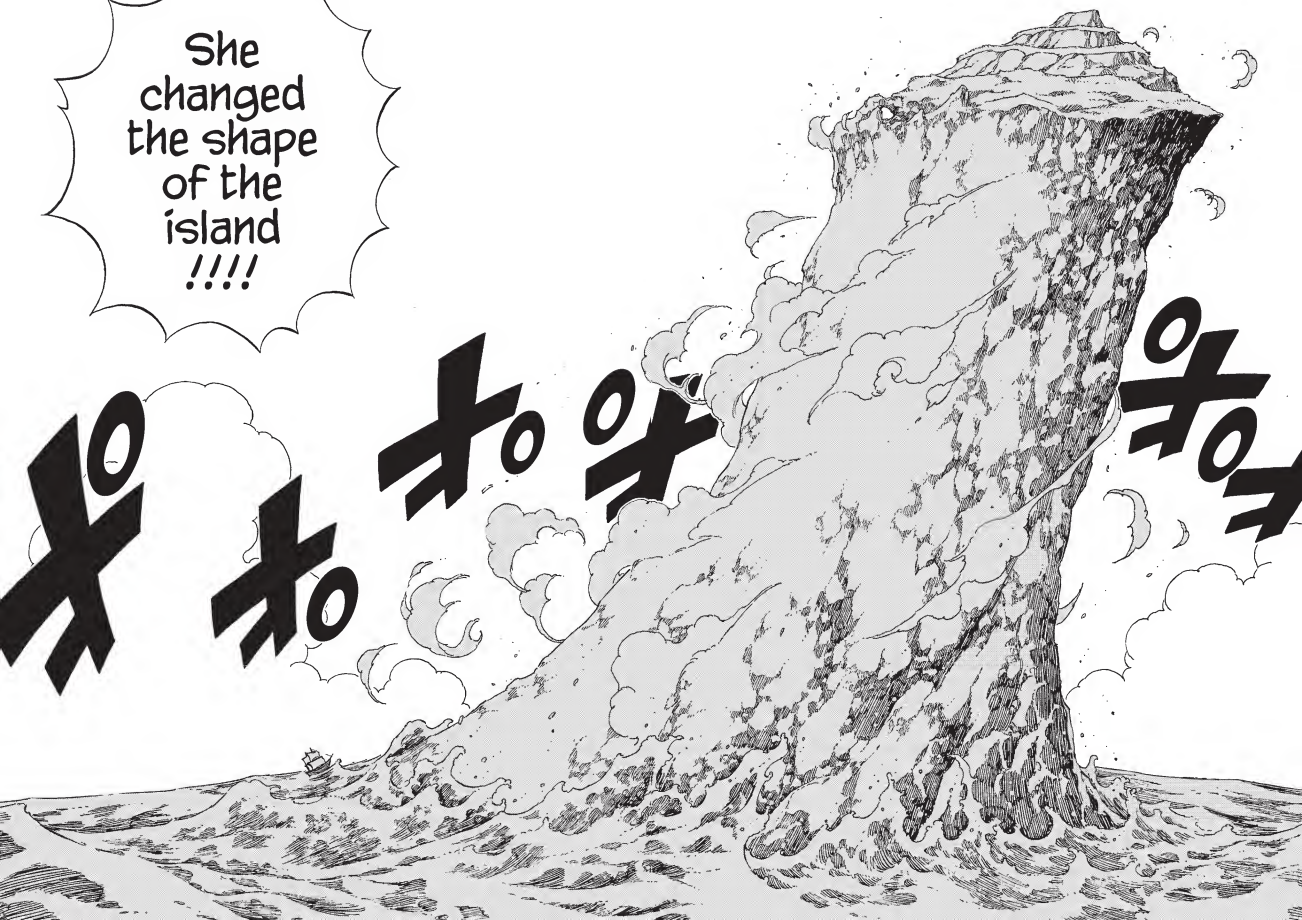
I was looking forward to that...



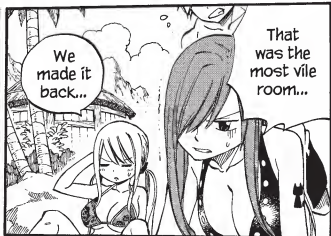


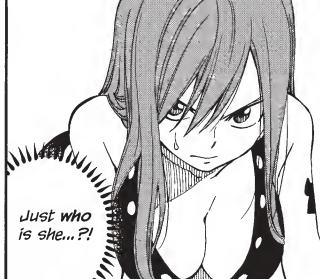


She
changed
the shape
of the
island
!!!!





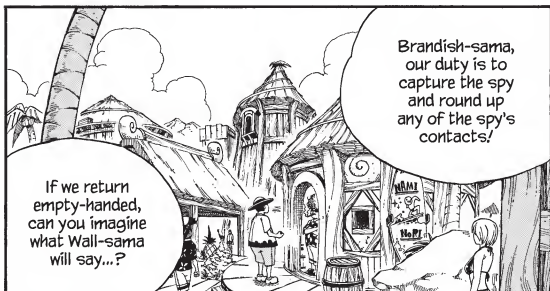




*Just who
is she...?!*

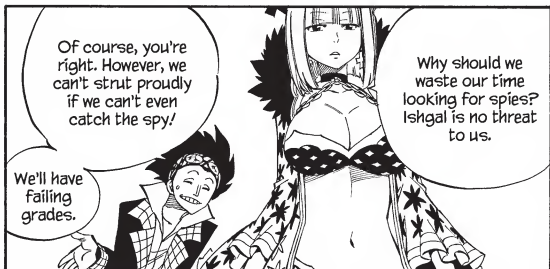


*That
aura's bigger
than the
master's...*



If we return
empty-handed,
can you imagine
what Wall-sama
will say...?

Brandish-sama,
our duty is to
capture the spy
and round up
any of the spy's
contacts!

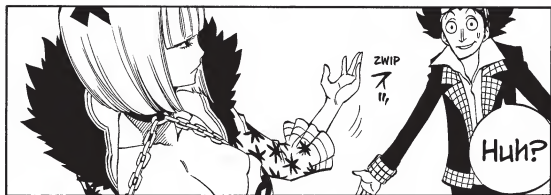


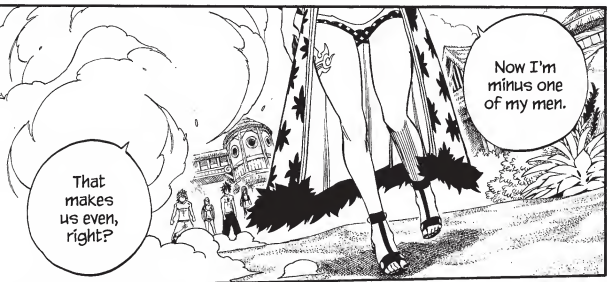
Of course, you're
right. However, we
can't strut proudly
if we can't even
catch the spy!

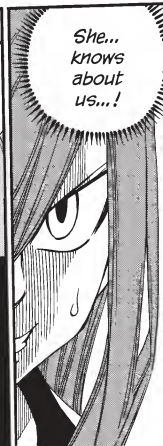
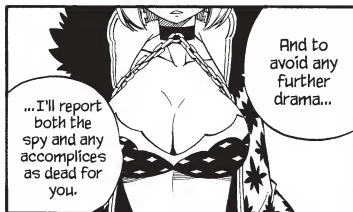
Why should we
waste our time
looking for spies?
Ishgal is no threat
to us.

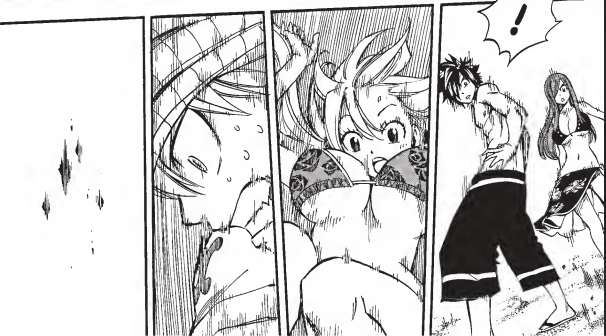
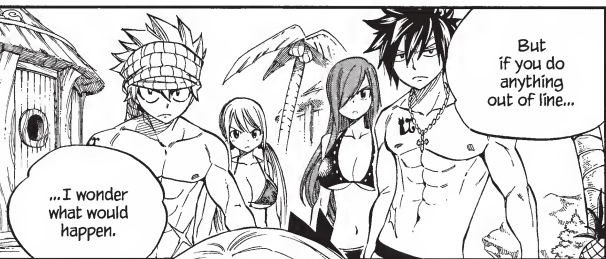
We'll have
failing
grades.













The ground...

...just vani-BLURG

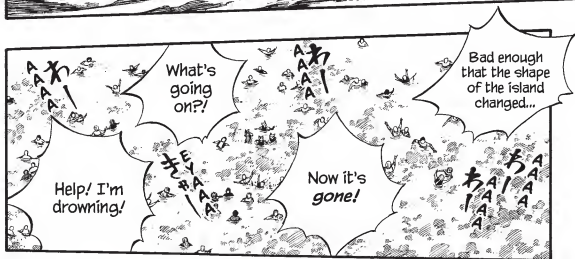
Wha-?!

BLOOSH

SPLOOSH

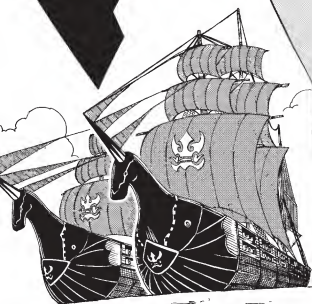
SPLOOSH

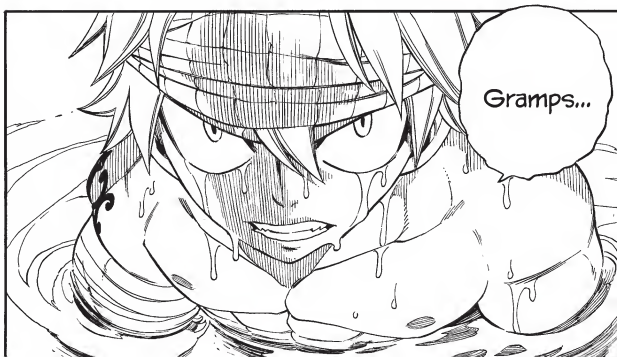
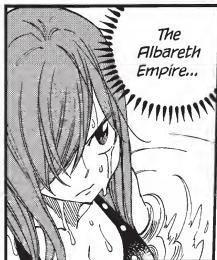
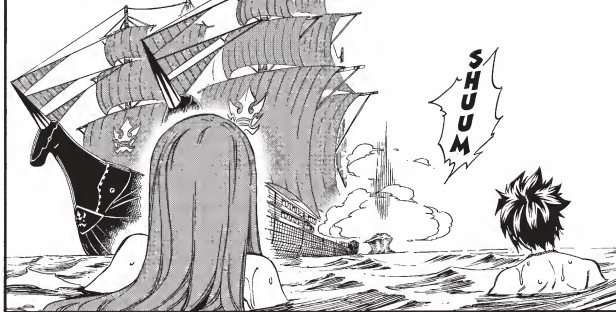
BLOOSH



*...Fairy
Tail.*

BOOOM



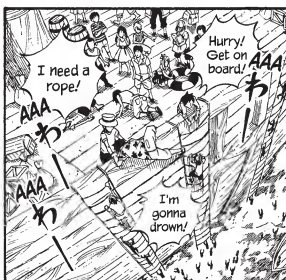
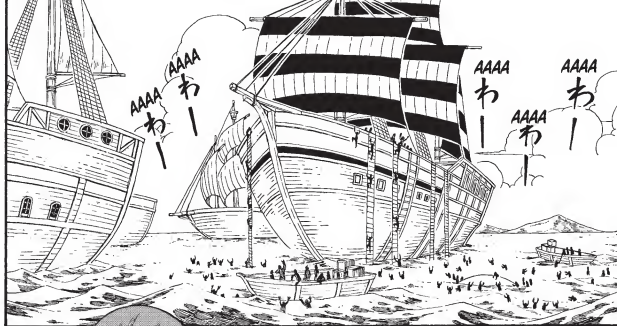


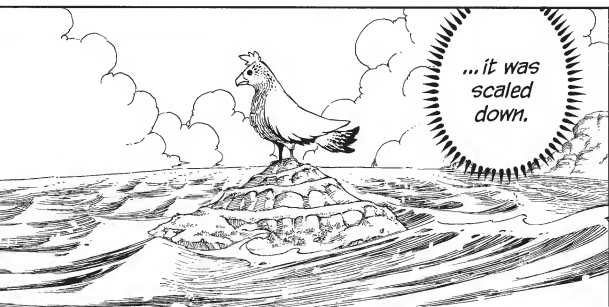
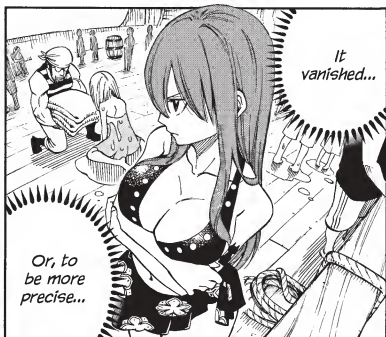
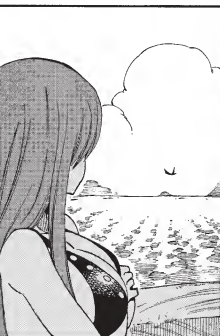
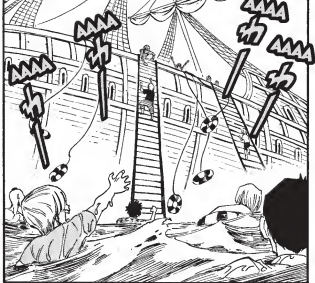
FAIRY TAIL

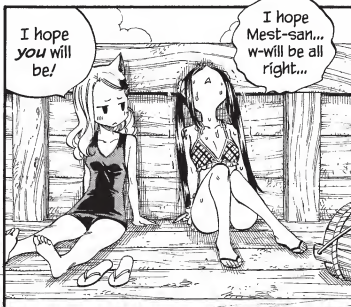
フェアリーテイル

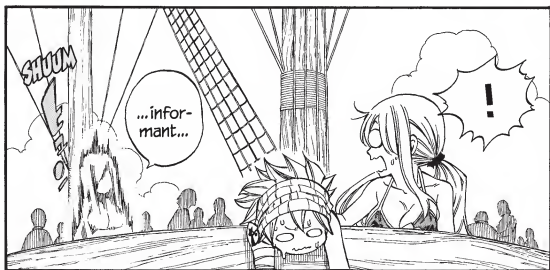
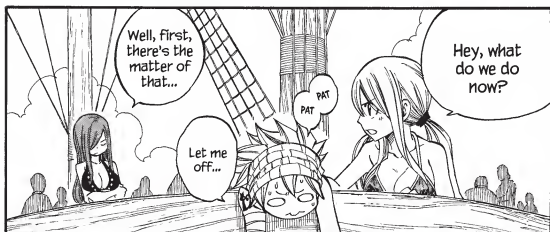
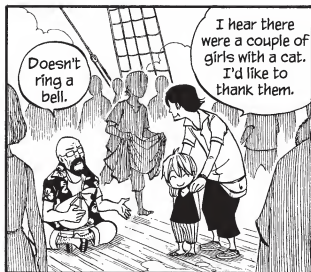
Chapter 444: Emperor Spriggan

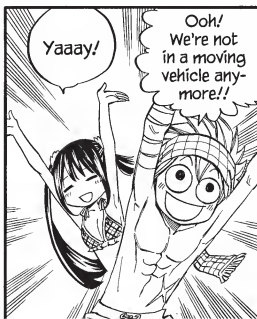
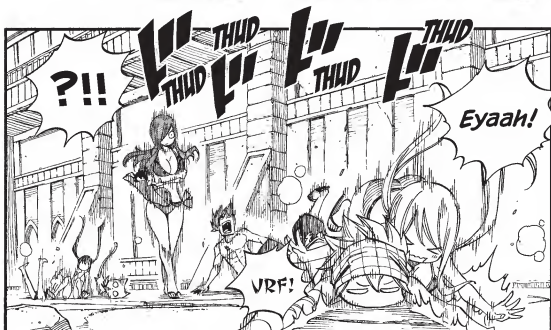
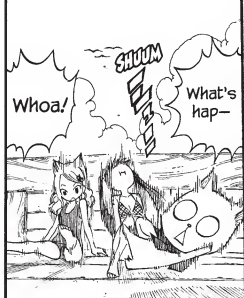




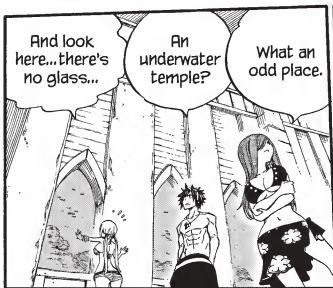


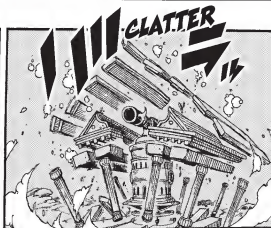


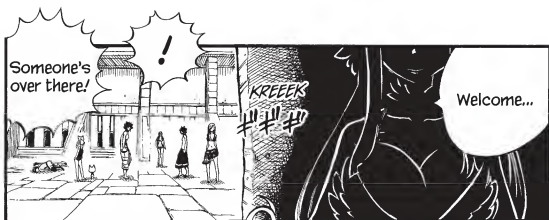


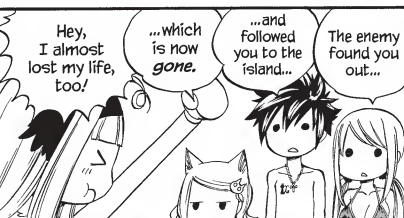


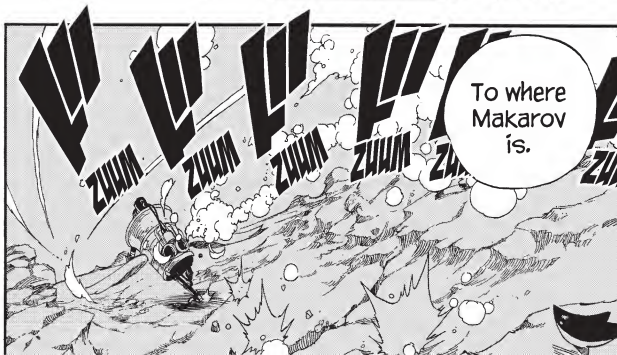
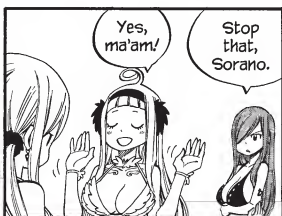
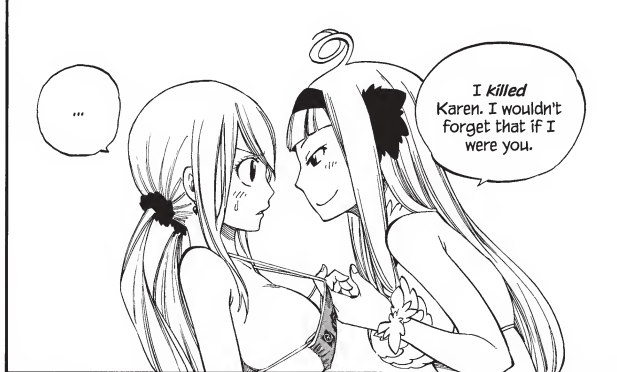


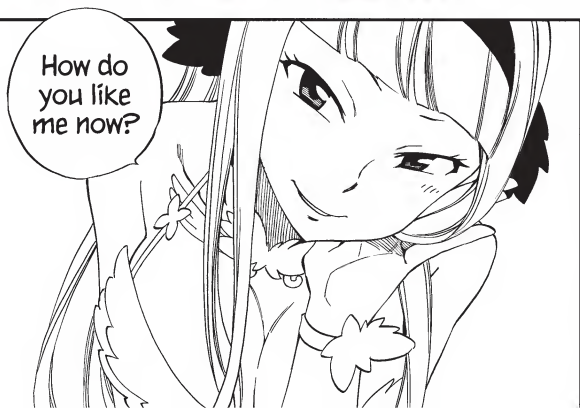
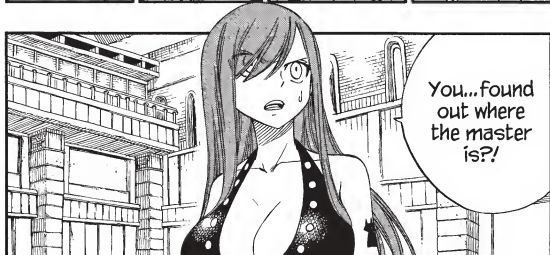
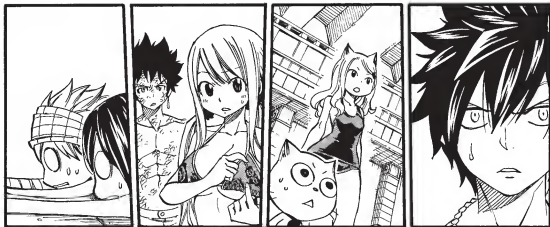






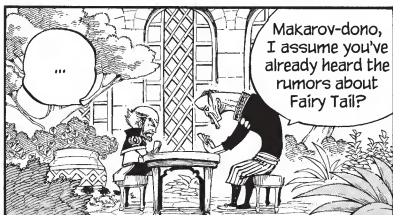


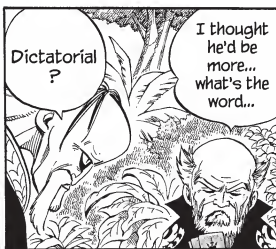
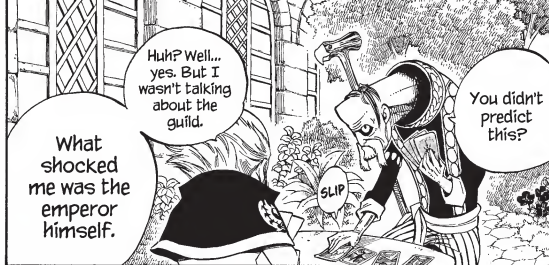


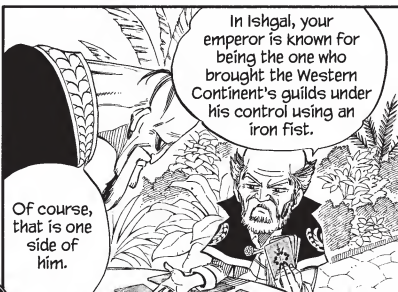
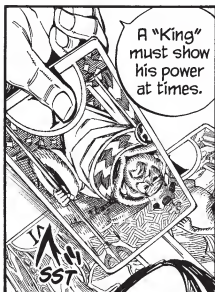
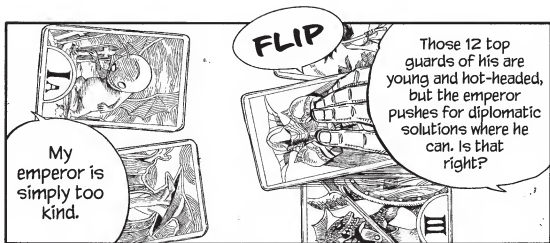




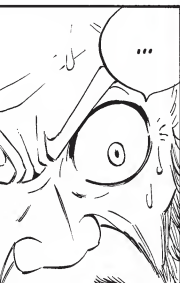
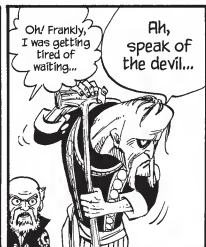
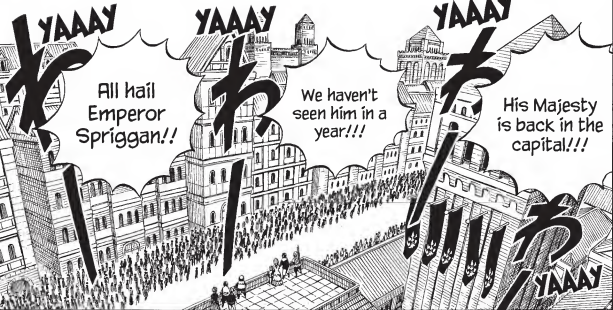
Vistarion,
the capital of the
Albareth
Empire...







Legenka: An Albareth card game.

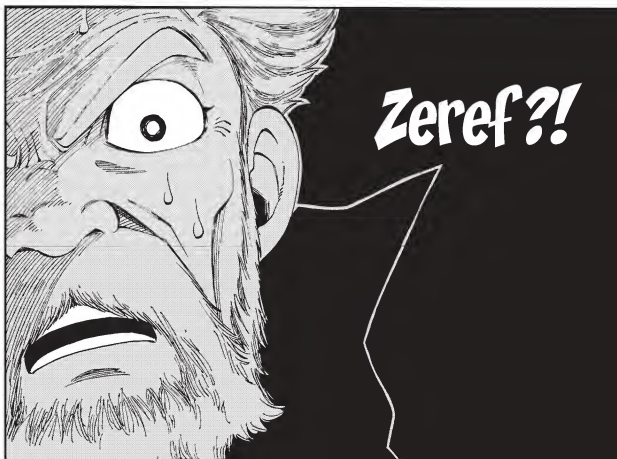




Long
live His
Majesty!

All
hail the
emperor!

Emperor
Spriggan,
huzzah!

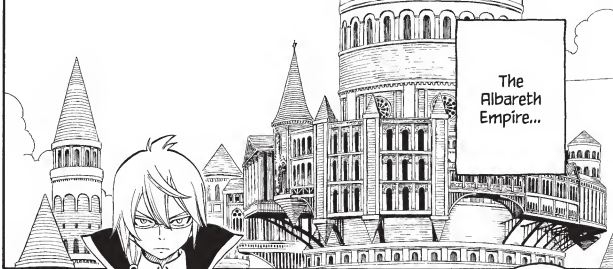


FAIRY TAIL

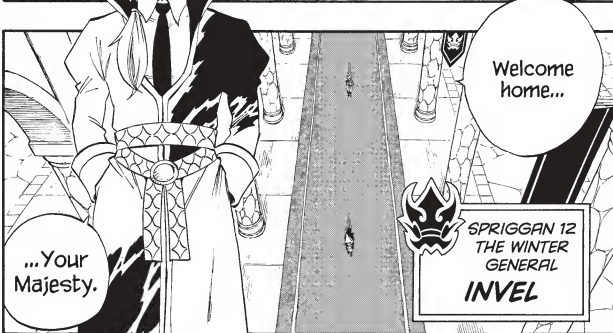
フェアリーテイル

Chapter 445: The Grotesque Fairy





The
Albareth
Empire...



Welcome
home...

...Your
Majesty.

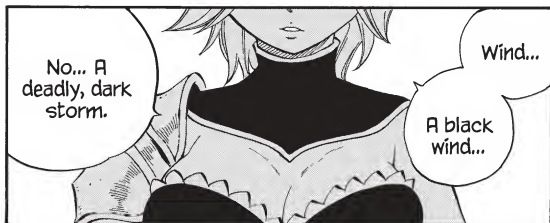
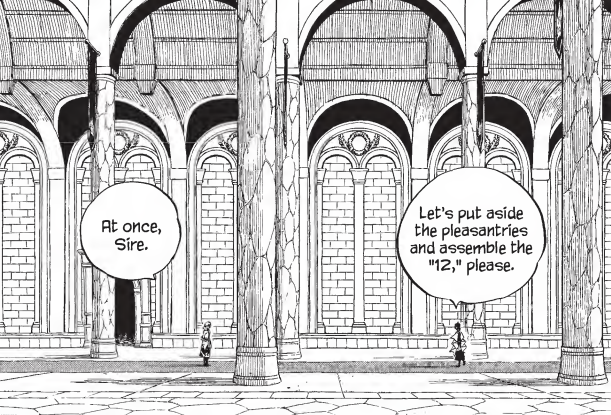


SPRIGGAN 12
THE WINTER
GENERAL
INVEL



Good
to be
back...

...Invel.



Desert
!!!!

Your Majesty
is no spring
breeze.

That's right!
Yer like some
sandstorm
that whips its
way across the
dead land!!!



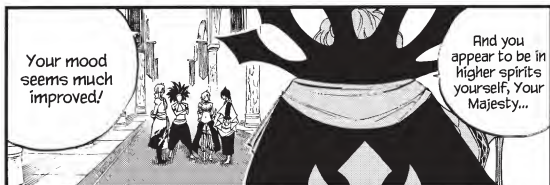
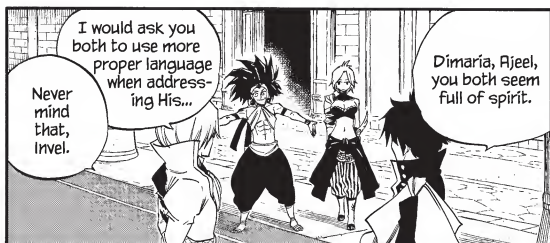
SPRIGGAN 12
DESERT KING

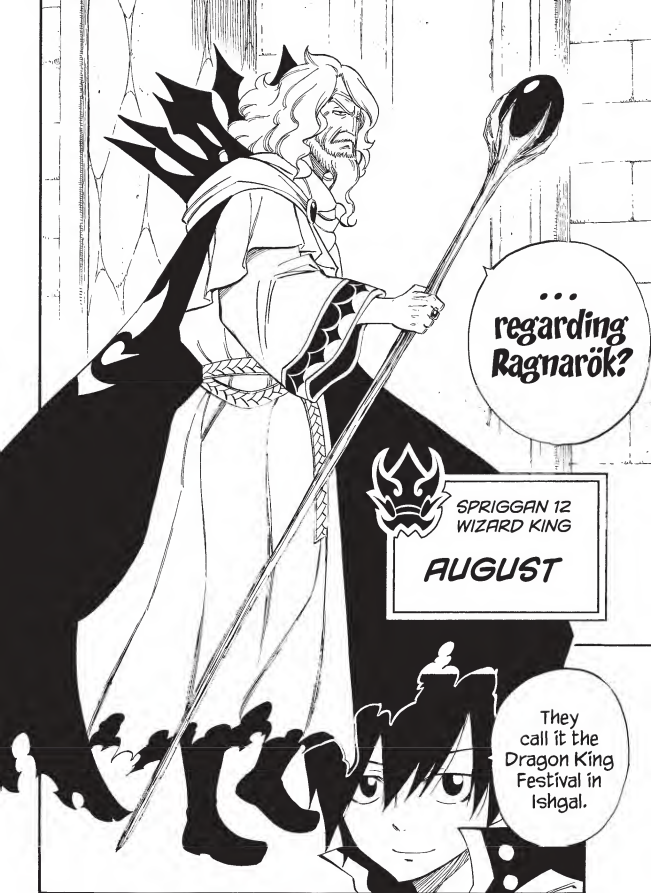
AJEEL RAML



SPRIGGAN 12
WARRIOR QUEEN

**DIMARIA
YESTA**





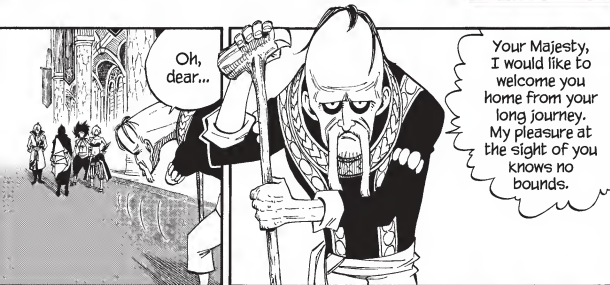
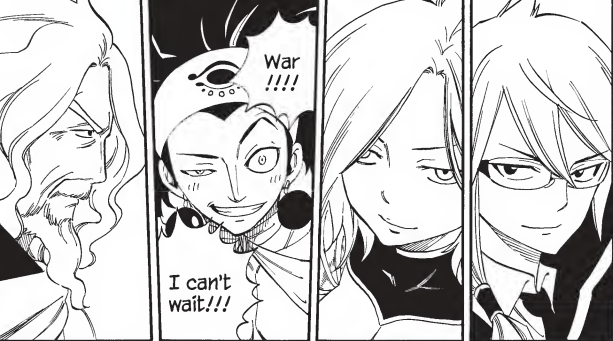
...
regarding
Ragnarök?



SPRIGGAN 12
WIZARD KING

AUGUST

They
call it the
Dragon King
Festival in
Ishgal.

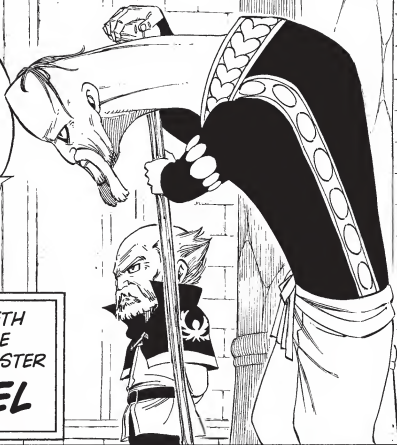


No, Sire, not that... I feel as though my soul might slip from my body, just by approaching your presence.



ALBARETH
EMPIRE
HIGH MINISTER

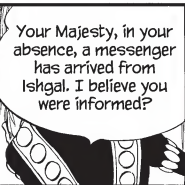
YAJEEL



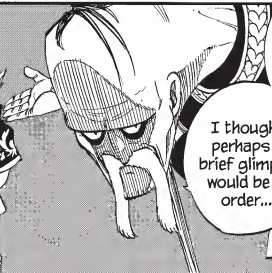
Yes. I was told.



Your Majesty, in your absence, a messenger has arrived from Ishgal. I believe you were informed?

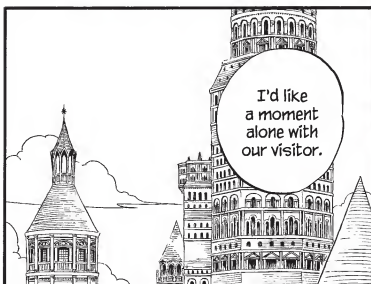
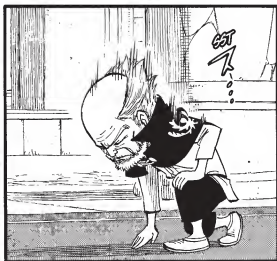
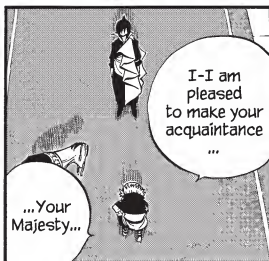


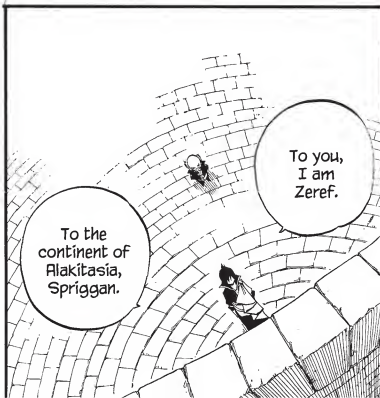
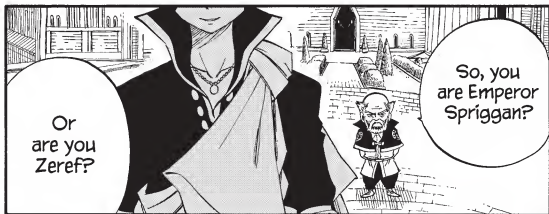
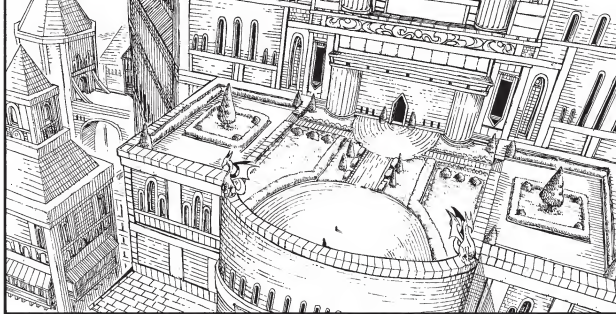
...

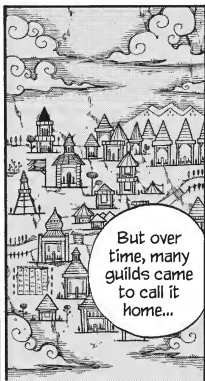
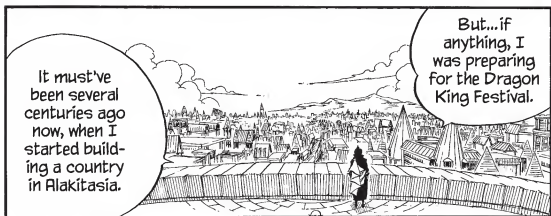
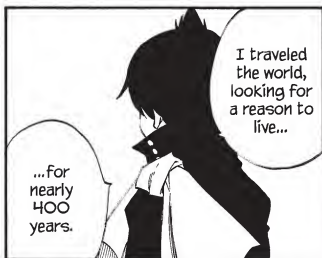


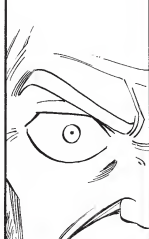
He desired an audience at the earliest possible moment.

I thought perhaps a brief glimpse would be in order...

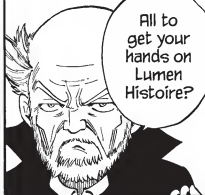




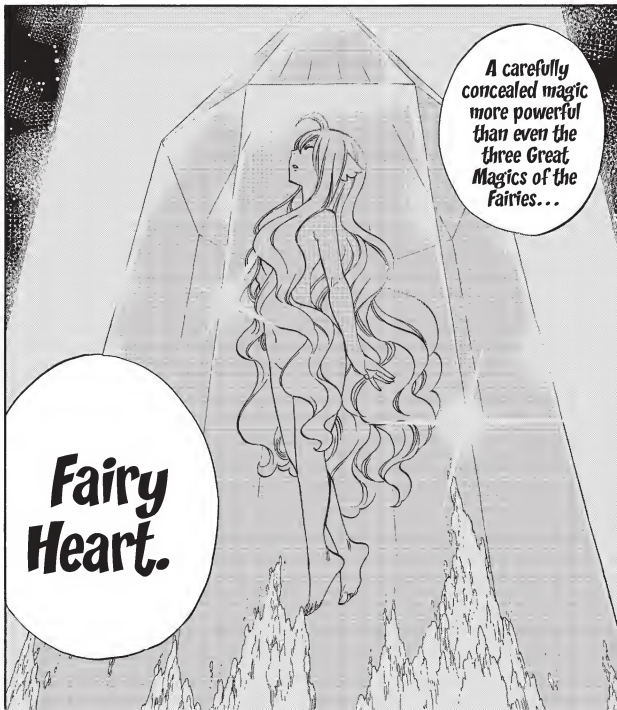




There's
no need for
code names.
I know what
it's officially
called.

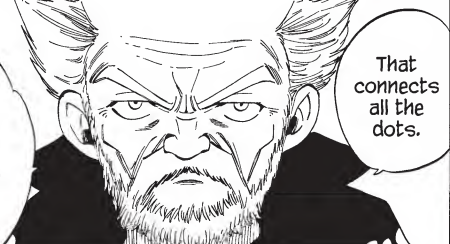


All to
get your
hands on
Lumen
Histoire?



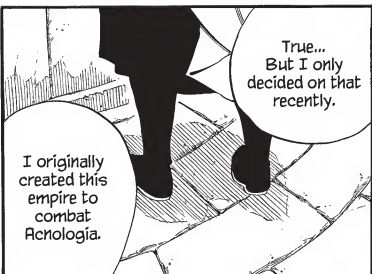
**A carefully
concealed magic
more powerful
than even the
three Great
Magics of the
Fairies...**

**Fairy
Heart.**



You
were after
Fairy Heart
because you
are Zeref.

That
connects
all the
dots.

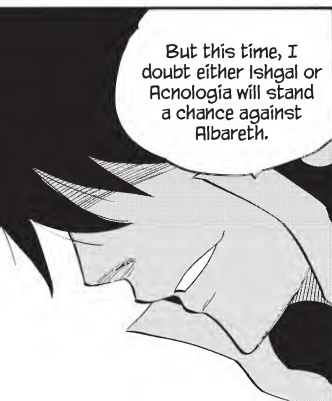


And it wasn't my
decision to send
in troops ten
years ago.

There was
one member of
the 12 who just
wouldn't listen
to reason.

True...
But I only
decided on that
recently.

I originally
created this
empire to
combat
Acnologia.



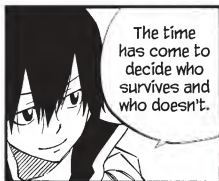
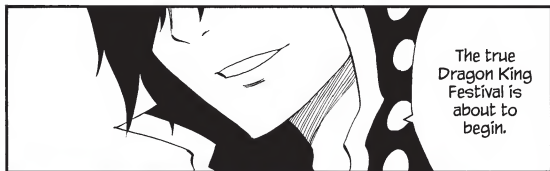
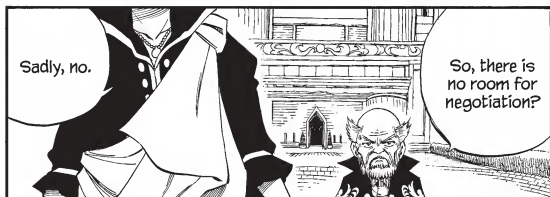
But this time, I
doubt either Ishgal or
Acnologia will stand
a chance against
Albareth.

It wasn't because
of the Council's
weapons? Etherion
and Face?

But I did
put a stop
to the
invasion...
because the
time wasn't
right.



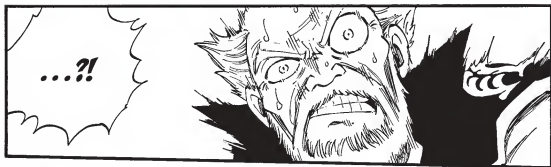
Of course that
was a part of it.
They would have
caused *us* wide-
spread damage
as well.







You raised
Natsu for
me. Thank
you.



...?!



Angry
enough to
crush me.

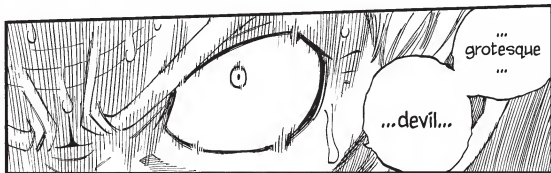
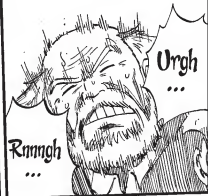
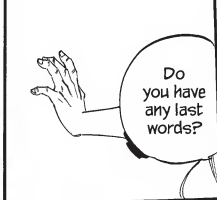


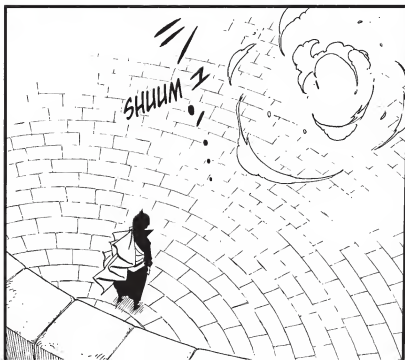
I imagine
he'll be
rather
angry.

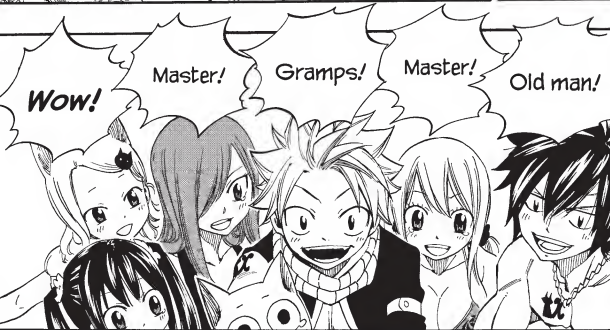


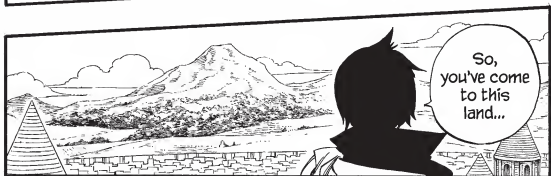
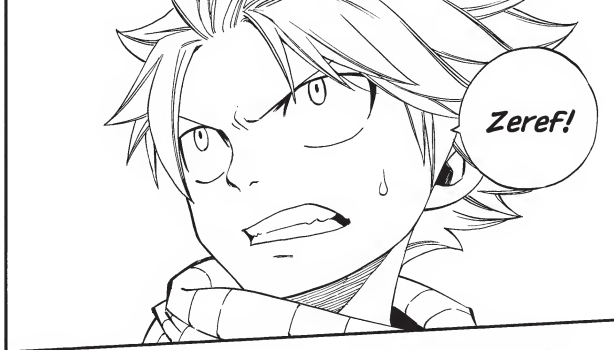
Then,
I'll deliver
your body
to Natsu.

Your
death will
be quick.





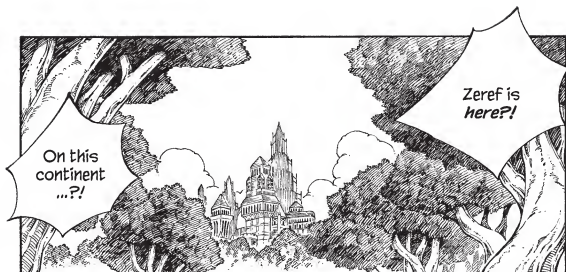






Chapter 446: The Land the Gods Abandoned

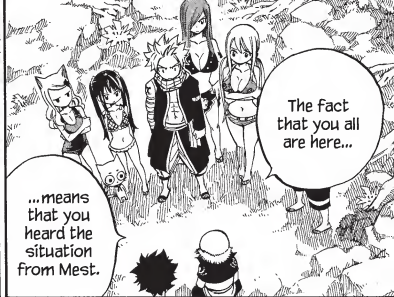






Anyway,
we're happy
to have you
back, safe
and sound!

Yes.



...means
that you
heard the
situation
from Mest.

The fact
that you all
are here...

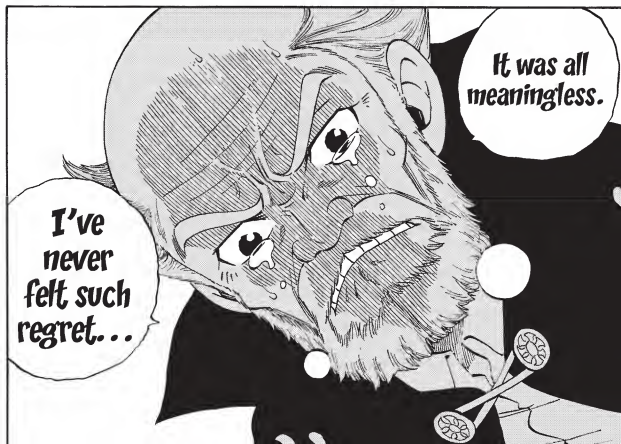


All after
I sullied
the name of
the guild to
come here!



...They had no
intention of
negotiating
from the
start!

I didn't
consider
this deeply
enough...



I've
never
felt such
regret...

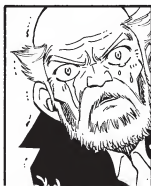
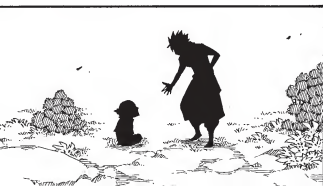
It was all
meaningless.



And after that, we were able to form up as a guild again!

This year made us all that much more mature.

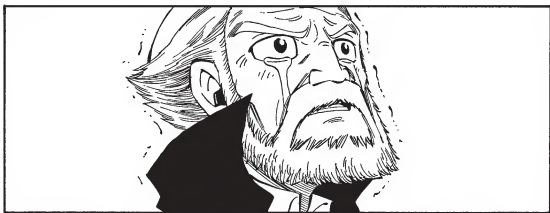
"Meaningless"? Not at all!





Gramps,
let's go
back...

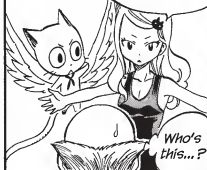
...
to Fairy
Tail!



I've been overusing my Direct Line. I can only transport us all one more time with the magic power I have left.



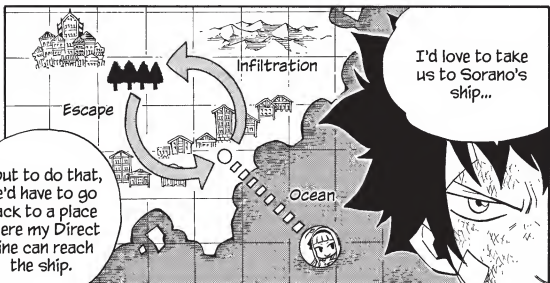
You're right!



We've got tons to talk about, but first we'd better get a move on.

Who's this...?

Yes...



I'd love to take us to Sorano's ship...

...but to do that, we'd have to go back to a place where my Direct Line can reach the ship.

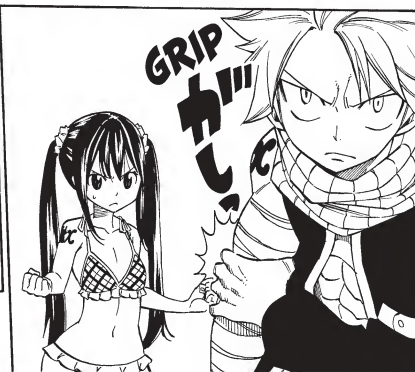
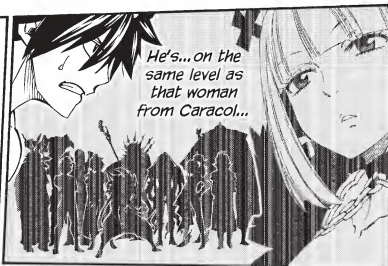
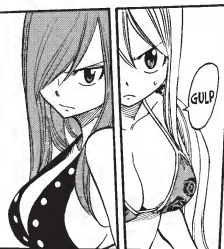


And here I
thought we
were gonna
be great
friends...

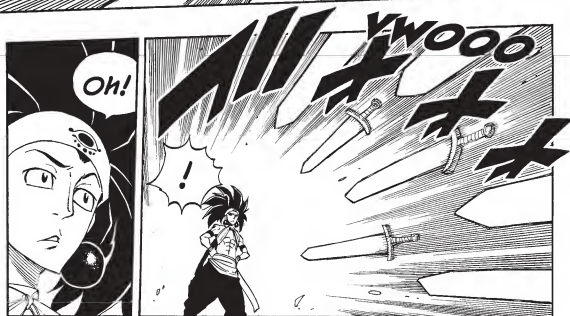
Leaving
so soon,
Makarov?

I hope you
remembered
your
souvenirs!

Because
the trip six
feet under is
faster than
you'd think.







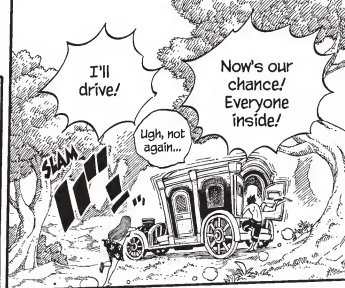


Let's go!!!



S.E. plug, set!

CHANK

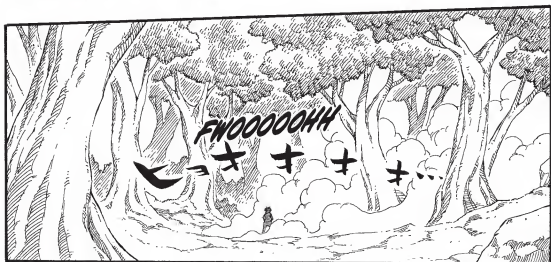


I'll drive!

Now's our chance!
Everyone inside!

Ugh, not again...

SLAM



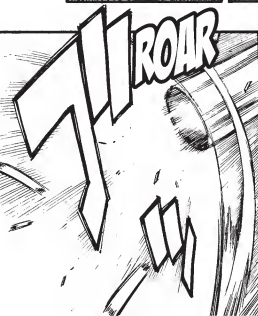
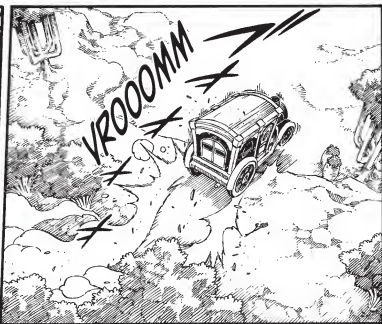
FWOOOOOHH

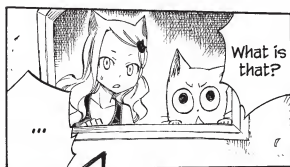


SHIFF



So,
those are
Makarov's
troops?



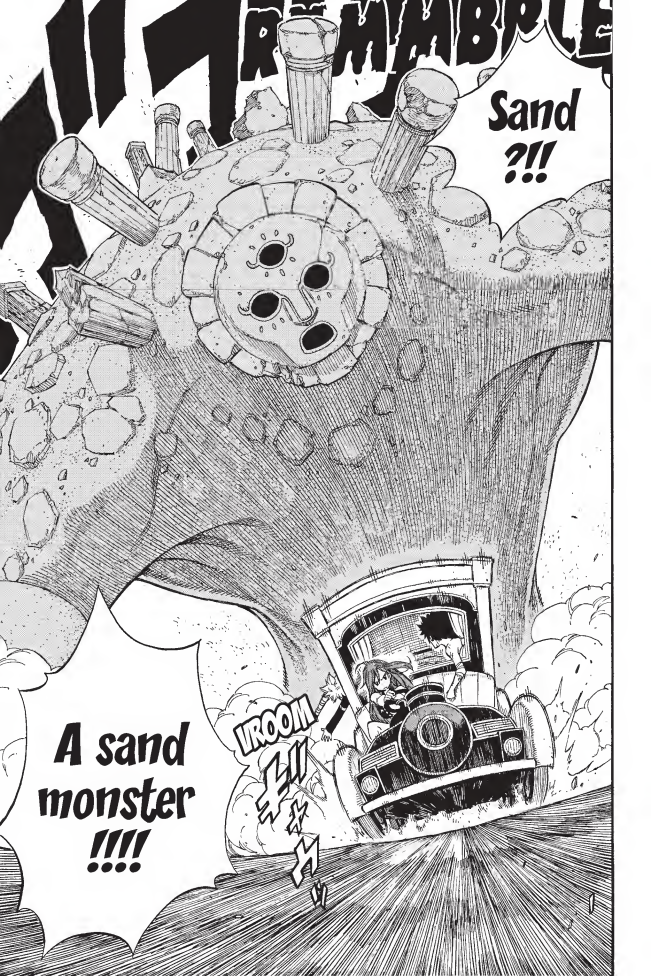


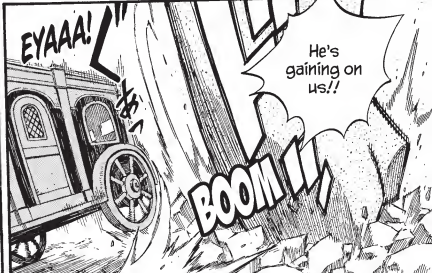
REMEMBER

**Sand
?!!**

**A sand
monster
!!!!**

UROOM



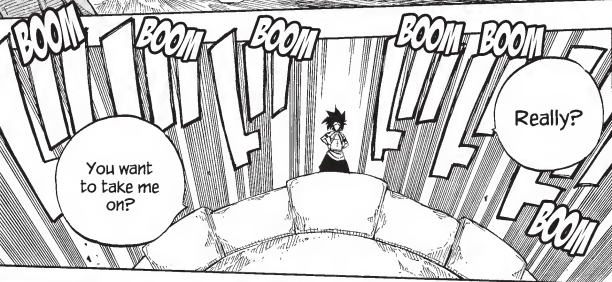


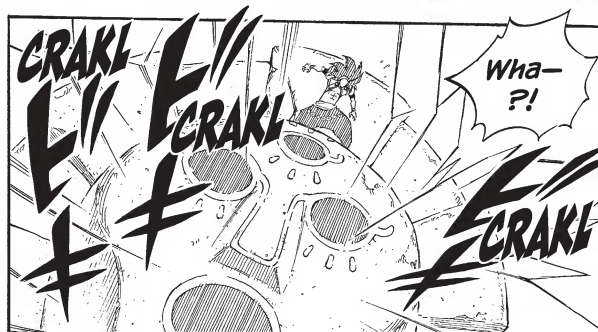
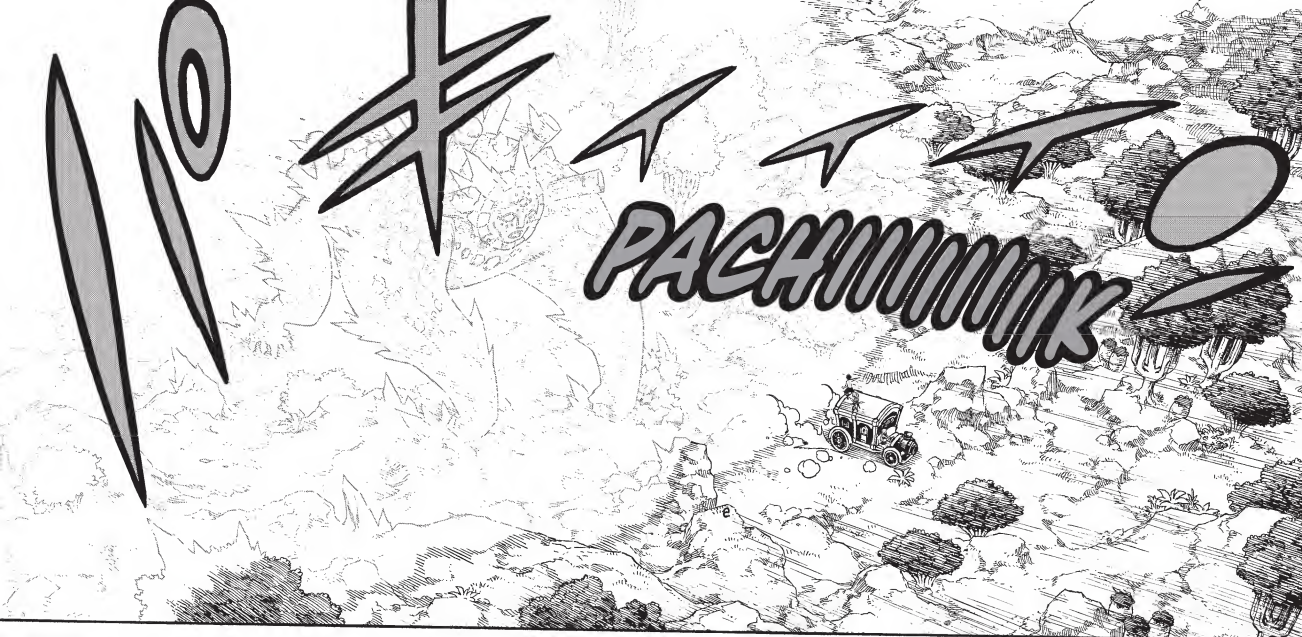


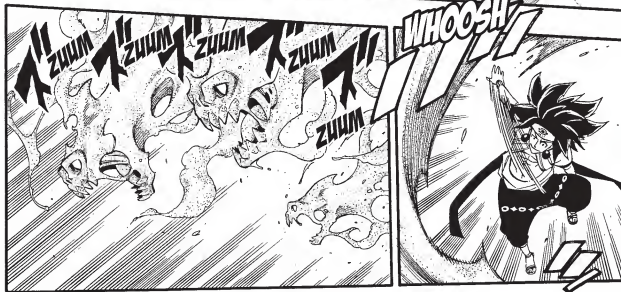


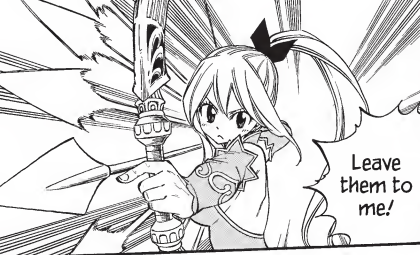
*Wait... Lucy, too!
They've gotten so
much stronger in
just one year!!!!*

*Where did
Gray get
that kind
of magic
power... ?!*









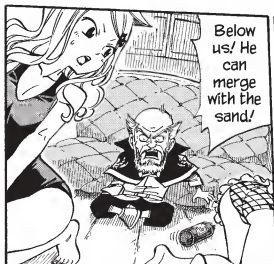
Leave
them to
me!



The sand
turned
into mon-
sters!



**STAR
SHOT
!!!!**



Below us! He can merge with the sand!





Uwaah!



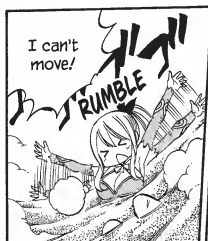
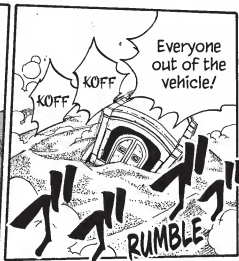
Dammit!



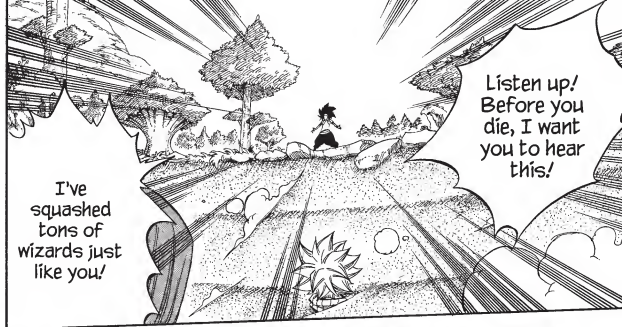
GWURP!



Dammit!

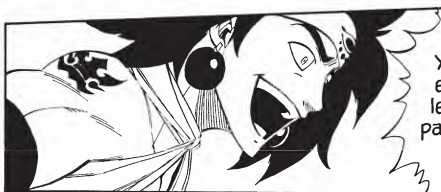






I've
squashed
tons of
wizards just
like you!

Listen up!
Before you
die, I want
you to hear
this!



You're not
even in my
league, you
pathetic little
bugs!!!!



Nice! Nice!!
I love those
expressions!

I bet you
just *hate*
that, huh?!
Ah ha ha ha!!



GASP



But it's
gonna
come under
Albareth's
control
soon!



Even the
gods have
abandoned
the land of
Ishgal!



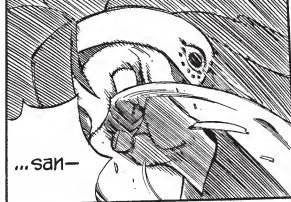
It's been
abandoned by
the gods?

Okay.
That's
cool.



BOOM

Because
it's still
got Fairy
Tail!!!



...san-



He
vaporized
the...



BWAH
!!!!

BOOM

TO BE CONTINUED

あとがき

Afterword

Now we've broken into the Albareth Arc! This time, we're going to bring you battles with the toughest enemies we've ever seen. And maybe this will even lead to the final battle with Zeref! The enemy boss characters are also the 12 strongest characters in the history of this series!

And it's really tough to draw! Okay, we haven't seen everyone yet, but they're all so quirky! I figure one of the great pleasures of a battle manga is trying to guess who will take on who, right? And it'd make me really happy if you'd all start to imagine the possibilities!

Now, about the Spriggan 12—there was a fight over the number 12. My editor was of the opinion that five or six would do. And it's true, 12 is a lot of characters. It's hard to remember the names of all of them, and when each one has a battle, it makes you wonder just how long this arc will go on. But there's a bit of a secret reason for it, so we finally decided on leaving it at 12.

We still haven't decided on every plot twist that we'll be facing yet, but the battles are going to be on fire! So everyone, fasten your seat belts and prepare for a great ride!!

EMERGENCY REQUEST!

EXPLAIN THE MYSTERIES OF F.T.!

In a coffee shop in Magnolia...



Hi everybody! Long time no see!



Huh? You mean this column hasn't been canceled?

Lucy: No, we're fine. After all, this is a manga with a lot to complain about.

Mira: So, shall we get to the first question?

Was Minerva able to return to being human?



Lucy: You know, I was worried about that, too!

Mira: Well, after the battle, Porlyusica did everything she could to treat her and get her back to her original body, but...

Lucy: She *did* become a demon, didn't she?

Mira: But don't worry! You wouldn't know it just by looking at me, but I'm kind of a human-demon mix, too.



You know, you say some really scary things in a very calm voice.



And on to the next question!

The Future Rogue said that it was Gray who killed Frosch... and he didn't. Which is good, but it brings up a new question: In the future that the Future Rogue came from, why did Gray want to kill Frosch?



Lucy: ...

Mira: ...

Lucy: See! It's because the author does a lot on the fly that the situation becomes questionable.

Mira: I don't mean this as an excuse, but at the time, they had Rogue speaking vaguely on purpose...



Continued on the left-hand page.

Continued from the left-hand page.

Mira: ...because at the time, Frosch's killer wasn't actually set in stone.

Lucy: Whoa! Truth bomb!

Mira: Of course, it had been given some thought, and Gray was among those under consideration.

Lucy: In other words, different people were also under consideration, huh?

Mira: Well, it felt like it was good timing to attribute it to Gray, but then some fans called us out on it.

Lucy: Still, it became a part of the story, so we gotta fix up those loose ends, right?

Mira: You're right... But I don't think this was all that inconsistent, except that maybe Gray didn't have much motivation to kill Frosch.



In the future that future Rogue came from, Gray's body may have been under an evil influence, right?

Mira: Either way, I'm glad that future never came true.

So smart phones have finally appeared in the FT world, huh?



To be more exact, it's a small-type communications lacrima.



Warren was working the whole year on it!

Lucy: And it's really convenient!

Mira: But it isn't like the cellphones where you guys live.

Lucy: First, it runs on magic power.

Mira: And the distance it can work on is pretty limited.

Lucy: Warren once said...



But I intend to make them so they can be used throughout Fiore...no, bigger! Throughout the whole continent!

Lucy: And he was pretty worked up when he said it.

Mira: Well, it's certainly possible. But I hear he really made a lot of money off it so far.



What?!

Mira: Rumor has it, he's made enough for even his grandchildren to live in luxury!

Lucy: I can't believe he'd return to the guild after being so successful...



Mmmhmm! And despite it all, when he got your letter, he chose the guild over that.



Thank you, Warren! Thank you!

Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics

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FAIRY TAIL GUILD de ART

Everyone in their chibi form! I like this picture!



Sabana Prefecture, Gray

Chiba Prefecture, Yû Takayama



▲ This is rare! A picture of Mard Gear in his Ethernano form!

Sabana Prefecture, Ryô Shimono



▲ The author's an original design! It's cute! Thanks!!

Hiroshima Prefecture, Tachi Kobayashi



▲ Ohh!! Thank you!! That love really comes through!!

Osaka, Yumiko Asano



▲ Seira was both beautiful and scary during the Tartaros arc, huh? What impression did she leave on you all?

Sabana Prefecture, Seiri Nomoto



▲ Christmas! And so cute! I think it's great that Lucy's the reindeer and not Happy!

Niigata Prefecture, Strawberry Gullies



▲ Ohh! An Erza postcard!! Erza looks really good in that get-up!



They're going to include this scene in the entry in a special DVD in Japan!

Sabana Prefecture, Sayana Suzuki



▲ Cool!! And really well done!! These two also came out great in the anime, too!

Iwami Prefecture, Haruo Shibata



▲ Look at all the characters!! Must have been a tough one to draw.



Nagano Prefecture, Sanku

By sending in letters or postcards, you give us permission to give your name, address, postal code, and any other information you include to the author as is. Please keep that in mind.

Tokyo, Haha



▲ These two are always great friends. And I'm sure they'll play a big part really soon!

Tokyo, Be Alice



▲ I want her to show up again! I really like her character, too!

Hiroshima Prefecture, Satou



▲ An oddy adult-looking Natsu. This type is nice, too, every now and then, huh?

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

52



SPRIGGAN 12

真島ヒロ



SPRIGGAN 12

FROM HIRO MASHIMA



I went to a signing in Okinawa.
It was in September, but it was
still so hot!

There were a lot of people
who came, and it was great fun!
Not to mention the fact that
they served really delicious
food.

The problem was that I
was so busy that I was stuck
in the hotel coming up with
storyboards during my long-
awaited trip!

Translation Notes:

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Page 41, Spriggan

The Emperor of the Albareth Empire is known as Emperor Spriggan. A spriggan is a mythical creature out of fairy lore from Cornwall in England, or, more particularly, the community of West Penwith. Spriggans are supposed to be grotesquely ugly creatures that guard treasures in old ruins and burial mounds. Of course, the emperor might have a good reason for calling himself that.

Page 82, "μ"

The Greek letter "μ" is pronounced 'myu' in Japanese. It has many different meanings, any of which may (or may not) have something to do with Brandish's character. For example, in Greek numerals, it represents the number 40, it was drawn from the Egyptian hieroglyph for water, and it is the symbol for micrometer, which is a very tiny unit of length.

Page 136, Ajeel Raml

During the translation of the weekly chapters for online publication, the translator originally spelled Ajeel's name as Ajeel Rommul, noting the similarity between Ajeel Rommul, the Desert King and the WWII German general, Erwin Rommel, the Desert Fox. However, as Ajeel started performing magic in later chapters, and the names of his attacks included Arabic words, they realized that his name was, in fact, Raml, the Arabic word for 'sand.' We apologize for any confusion.



RAGNARÖK, THE FINAL BATTLE BEGINS!!

Next Time...

When Natsu and the Fairy Tail wizards learn the sad secret, they burn with the will to fight the Albareth Empire!!

It has begun, Natsu...

Let's show them the power of the guild!

We cannot afford to lose this!

END.
...

Zeref is after Fairy Tail and its biggest secret—Fairy Heart! There lies the hidden secret of Mavis's crime!

I can take Zeref down!

I got a secret plan for that right here!!!!

The air above Magnolia is riddled with enemy ships!!
With zero chance of winning, what will be Fairy Tail's fate?!

I won't let you near my kids!!!

I have to get out there, too!

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

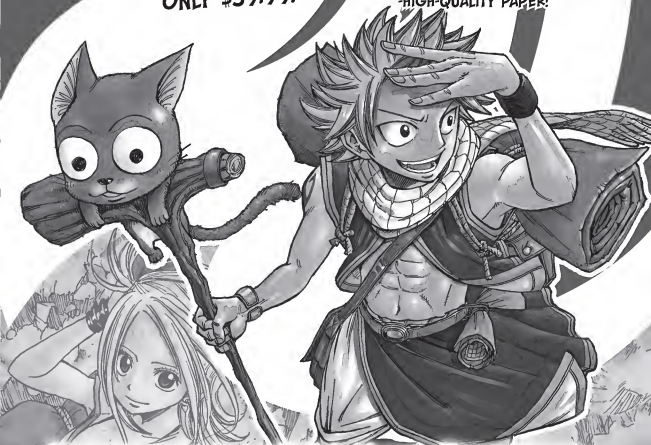
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